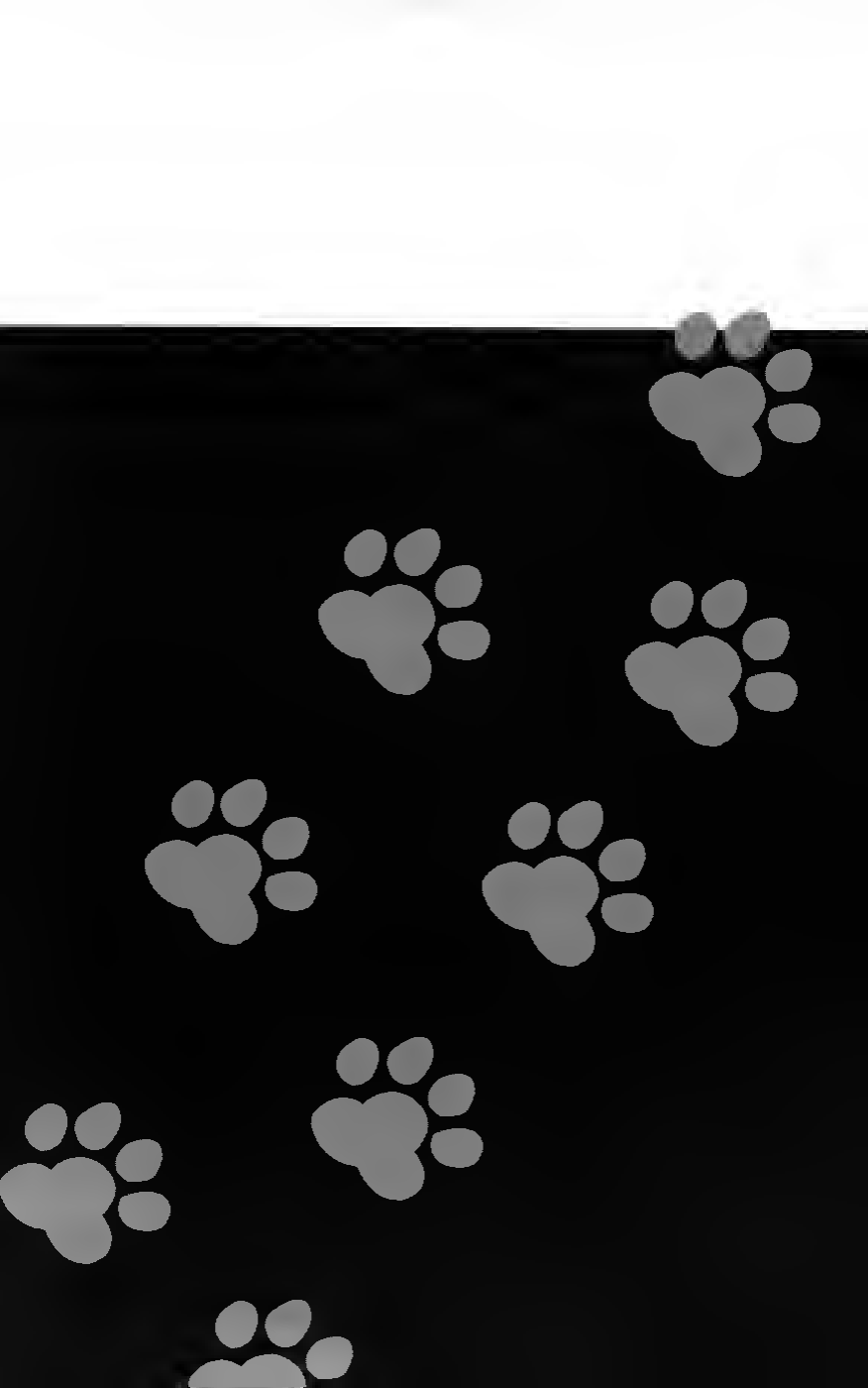
What's Michael?

by **Makoto Kobayashi**

Michael's Favorite Spot



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What's Michael? Vol. V: Michael's Favorite Spot

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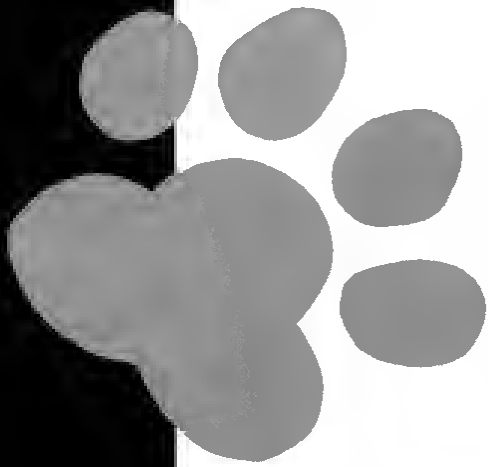
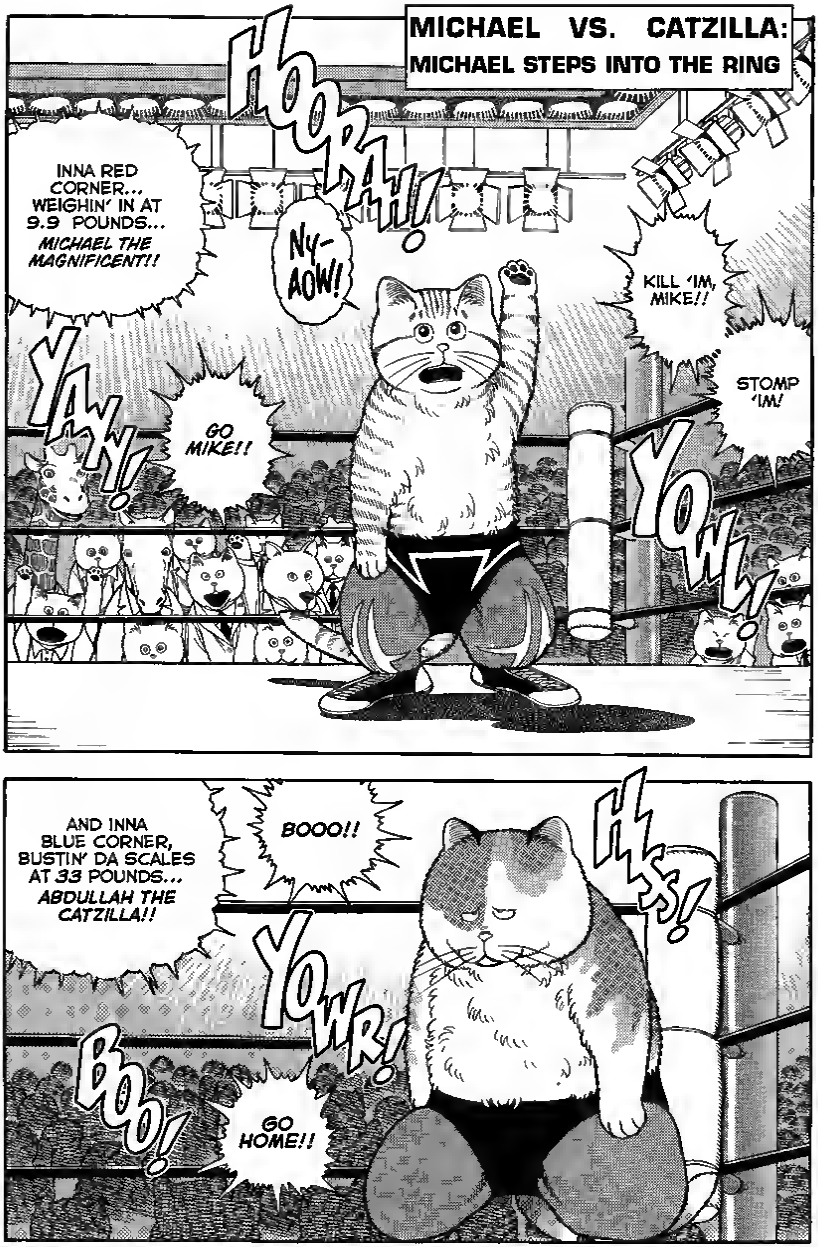
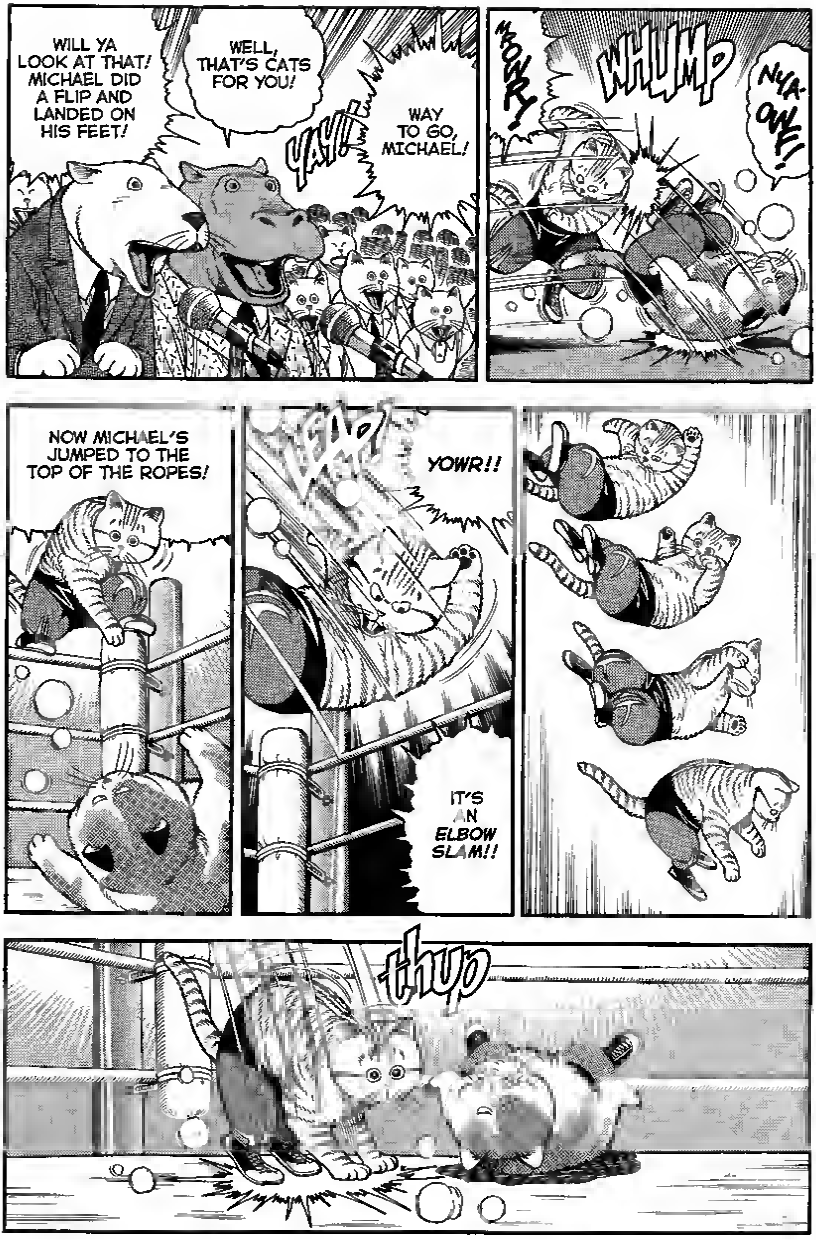



MICHAEL VS. CATZILLA:
MICHAEL STEPS INTO THE RING
INNA RED CORNER... WEIGHIN' IN AT 9.9 POUNDS... MICHAEL THE MAGNIFICENT!!
HOOAAH!
NY-AOW!
KILL 'IM, MIKE!!
STOMP 'IM!
YAWN!
GO MIKE!!
YOWL!
AND INNA BLUE CORNER, BUSTIN' DA SCALES AT 33 POUNDS... ABDULLAH THE CATZILLA!!
BOOO!!
HISS!
YOWR!
BOO!
GO HOME!!

IT'S THE BATTLE OF THE CENTURY, FOLKS!!
RAAH!
RAAH!
WHO'LL BE THE LAST CAT STANDING?! MICHAEL...OR CATZILLA?!
FIGHT!!
CLANG!
FSSH!
UH-OH! CATZILLA'S GOING FOR A BODY SLAM!!
MROWR!
FWHD
EE YOWR!
FWSH
THUP

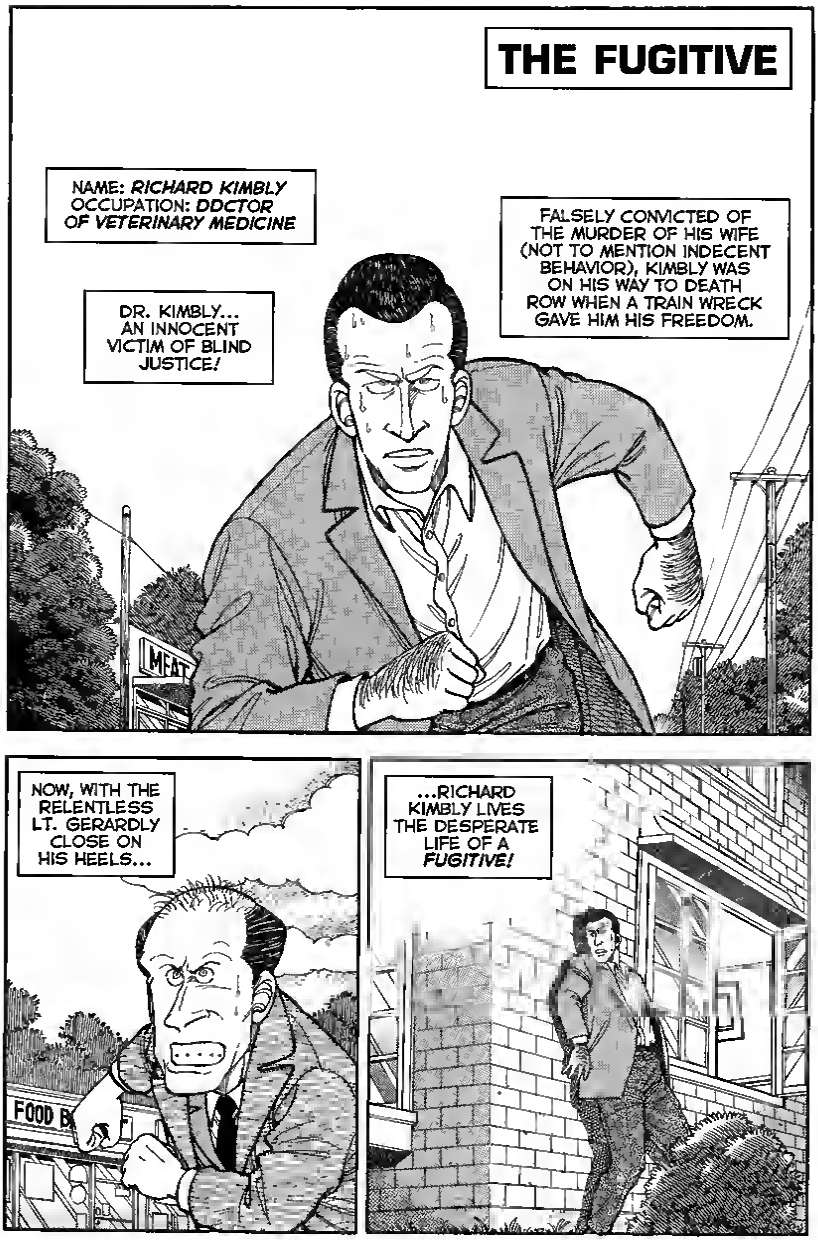

WILL YA LOOK AT THAT! MICHAEL DID A FLIP AND LANDED ON HIS FEET!
WELL, THAT'S CATS FOR YOU!
YAY!!
WAY TO GO, MICHAEL!
MOWR!
WHUMP
NYA-OWL!
NOW MICHAEL'S JUMPED TO THE TOP OF THE ROPES!
YOWR!!
IT'S AN ELBOW SLAM!!
thup

OOPS! MICHAEL WAS SET UP PERFECTLY FOR A GREAT ELBOW SLAM, BUT LANDED ON HIS FEET AGAIN! COULDN'T HELP HIMSELF, I GUESS!
HEY!?
.....
.....
BOO!
THAT WON'T GET HIM ANY POINTS AT ALL!
NYOWR!
CAT-ZILLA'S LOCKED UP A BOSTON CRAB!!
KRAAK
MAN, THAT'S GOTTA PUT THE HURT ON MICHAEL!
GYAA! YOWRL!
MROWW ...!
WAIT! LOOKS LIKE HE'S BROKEN THE HOLD!
URK!
WHOA!! MICHAEL BIT HIM! THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES!
HEY, NO BITIN'! BREAK IT UP!
champ
SKREEK!
CHEE!
THE REF'S CHEWING HIM OUT, BUT THE MAGNIFICENT ONE ISN'T LISTENING!

AWRIGHT, YOU GOONS! FIGHT!!
MDIDAH HIM, MIKE!!
RAAAUUU
ROWWL!
KLUK!
FROWWR!
WE'RE BACK IN ACTION, FOLKS, AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE HEAT IS REALLY ON NOW!
GO! GO! GO!
FSST!
WORK!
.....
....!
RRR?
FRROWR! FSST!!

HUH?
....
....
HEY, YOU! BACK IN DA FIGHT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES, FOLKS! MICHAEL HAS SUDDENLY RETREATED TO HIS CORNER! HE'S JUST CROUCHING THERE!!
LOOKS LIKE MICHAEL'S INNATE CATNESS HAS GOTTEN THE BETTER OF HIM AGAIN!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BOB?
WELL, JIM...
...BASICALLY, CATS HATE TO FIGHT!
WHA ...?!
FIGHT, DAMMIT!
BOO!
YOUSE GUYS HEAR ME?!
HISS!
BOO!
BOO! GET 'EM OUTTA DA RING!
WE WANT OUR MONEY BACK!!
....
....

THE END


THE FUGITIVE
NAME: RICHARD KIMBLY
OCCUPATION: DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
FALSELY CONVICTED OF THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE (NOT TO MENTION INDECENT BEHAVIOR), KIMBLY WAS ON HIS WAY TO DEATH ROW WHEN A TRAIN WRECK GAVE HIM HIS FREEDOM.
DR. KIMBLY... AN INNOCENT VICTIM OF BLIND JUSTICE!
MEAT
NOW, WITH THE RELENTLESS LT. GERARDLY CLOSE ON HIS HEELS...
FOOD B
...RICHARD KIMBLY LIVES THE DESPERATE LIFE OF A FUGITIVE!

COME OUT, KIMBLY!
I KNOW YOU'RE HERE SOMEWHERE!!
>WHEWW!
HEY...!
THAT CAT'S FUR... JUST LOOK AT IT!
IT HASN'T BEEN BRUSHED PROPERLY!
DUE TO HIS VETERINARY TRAINING, DR. KIMBLY SIMPLY COULD NOT IGNORE AN ANIMAL IN DISTRESS.

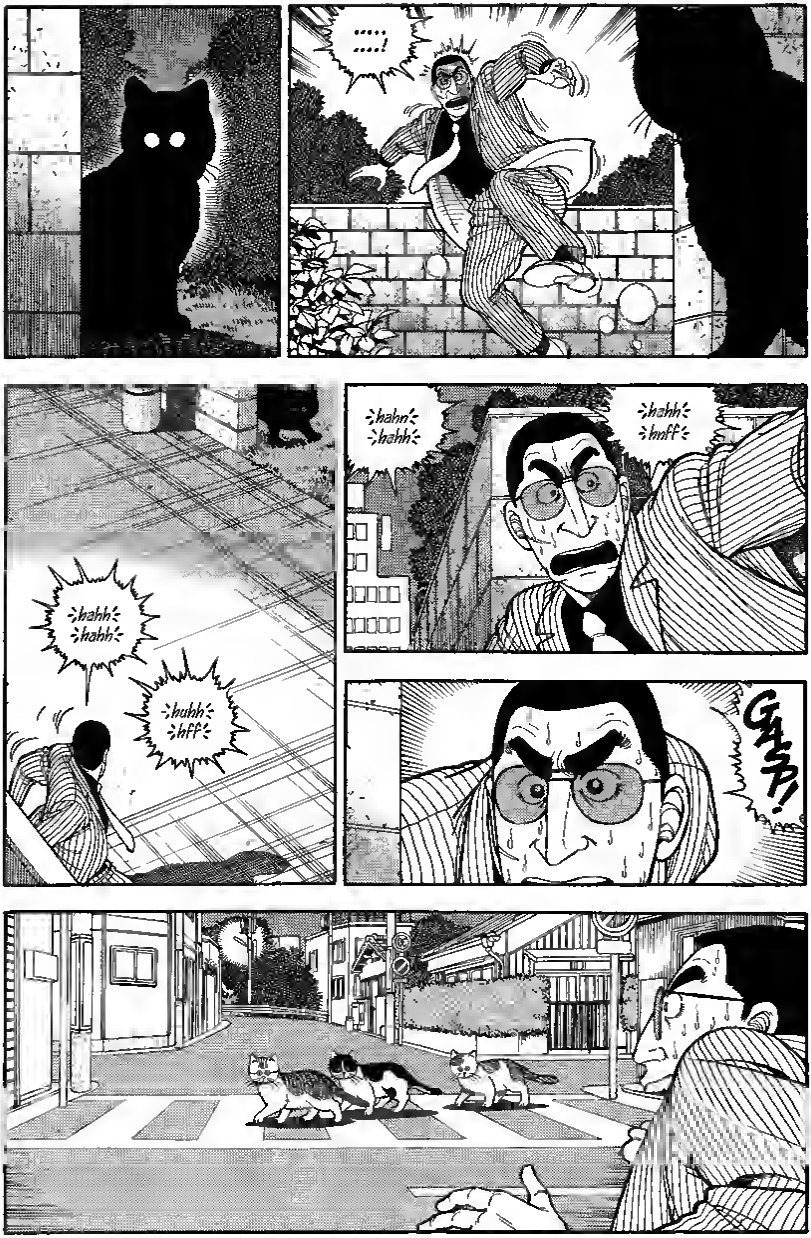
KSH
KSH
EEK!
WH-WHO ARE YOU?!
....!
DON'T YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT TO BRUSH THIS CAT MORE OFTEN?!
OTHERWISE HE'S IN GRAVE DANGER OF DEVELOPING A GASTRIC OBSTRUCTION!
HUH?! WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HEY ...!
AND LOOK AT THIS!
HIS EARS ARE FULL OF MITES!
WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN THEM OUT IMMEDIATELY!! BRING ME SOME COTTON SWABS AND RUBBING ALCOHOL, STAT!
UH... OKAY!

HMM... HIS NAILS ARE TOO LONG, AS WELL.
I'D BETTER TRIM THEM WHILE I'M AT IT.
GOSH... THANKS!
OKAY, ALL DONE.
SEE? LOOK HOW HAPPY HE IS NOW!
PROMISE ME YOU'LL TAKE BETTER CARE OF HIM FROM NOW ON!
OF COURSE! HOW CAN I THANK YOU ENOUGH?!
NOW... ONE LAST THING.
I WILL TEACH YOU MY SPECIAL "CAT TONGUE GRABBING TECHNIQUE."
...? WHAT?
CAN YOU REALLY GRAB A CAT'S TONGUE?!
YES. IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, REALLY.
DO YOU HAVE ANY BUTTER ON HAND?
I'LL GO GET IT!
FIRST, SPREAD SOME BUTTER ON YOUR THUMB, LIKE THIS!

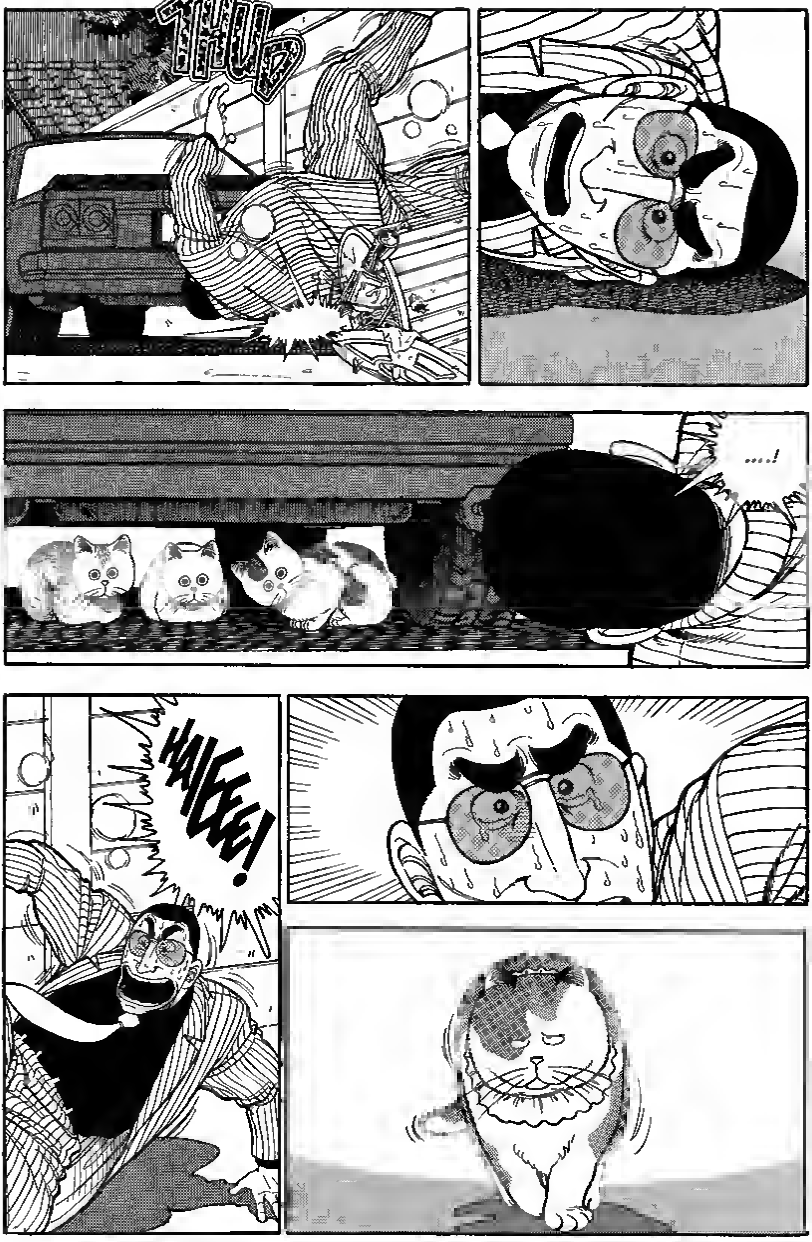
HEEERE, MICHAEL!
MROWR ...?
SLRP SLRP
NOW!!
SNOP
NGUG UGUG?!
SEE? EASY AS PIE!!
WHY, THAT'S AMAZING!
I MUST LEAVE YOU NOW, BUT IN THE FUTURE DON'T FORGET TO GROOM YOUR CAT REGULARLY!
FARE-WELL!
YES, B-BUT...
.....?

POLICE! OPEN UP!!
C-COMING!
BAM BAM
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN, MA'AM?
WHY, YES... HE LEFT MY HOUSE JUST A FEW MOMENTS AGO!
CURSES!!
WELL, HE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR!
B-BUT, OFFICER ...?!
WHO WAS HE... THAT MAN?
A FUGITIVE KILLER!!
OH! OH?!
RUN LIKE THE WIND, DR. RICHARD KIMBLY!!
FOR THERE CAN BE NO REST FOR... THE FUGITIVE!
THE END

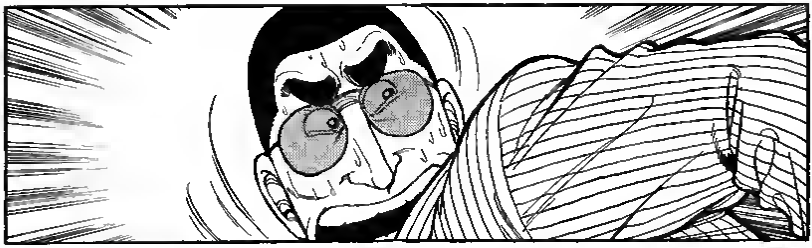
YAKUZA M'S
NIGHT OF FEAR
AND LOATHING
TAK
TAK
TAK
HM...?

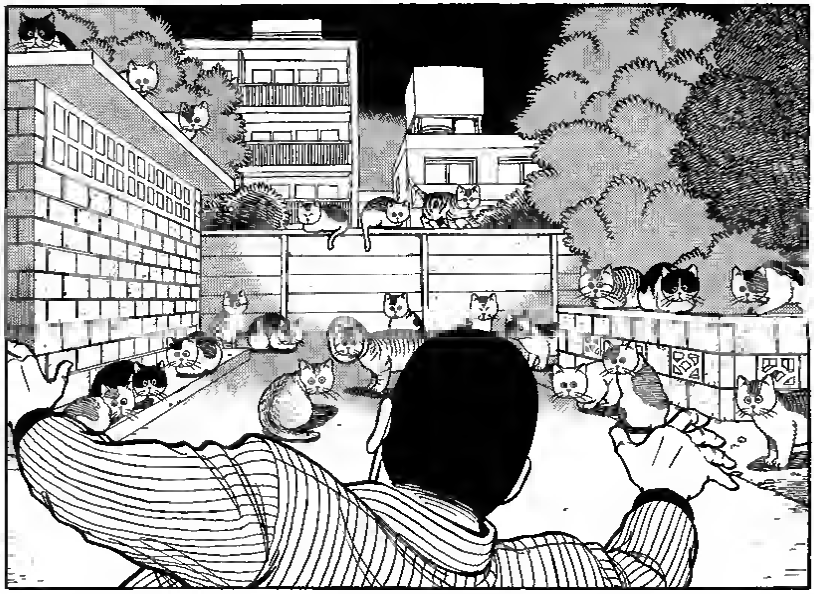

.....!
.....!
:hahh:
:hahh:
:hahh:
:hahh:
:hahh:
:hahh:
:huhh:
:hff:
GASP!

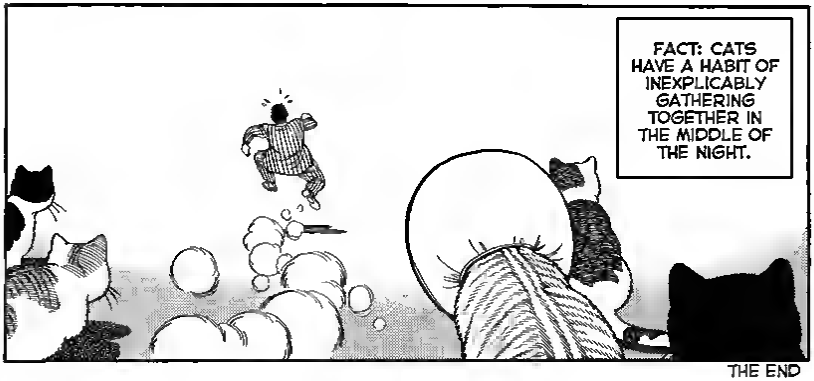
....!
THMP
THMP
THMP
:hff:
:hahh:
:huhh:
:hahh:
UNH
...?!
SKRSH
AYEE!!


....!
HAHEEE!

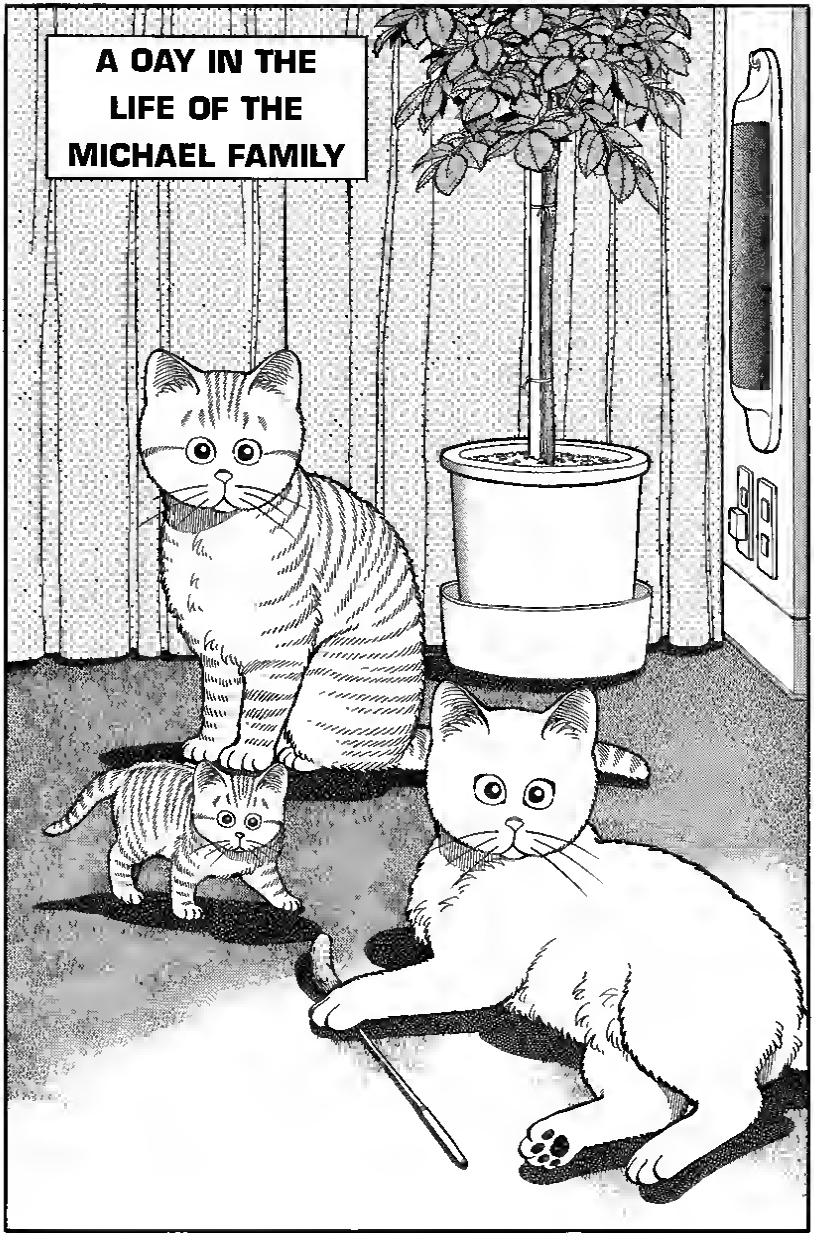
....!
GLARE
....
....
:hahh:
:hahh:
:hahh:
:hff:
:hhff:
....?
....!

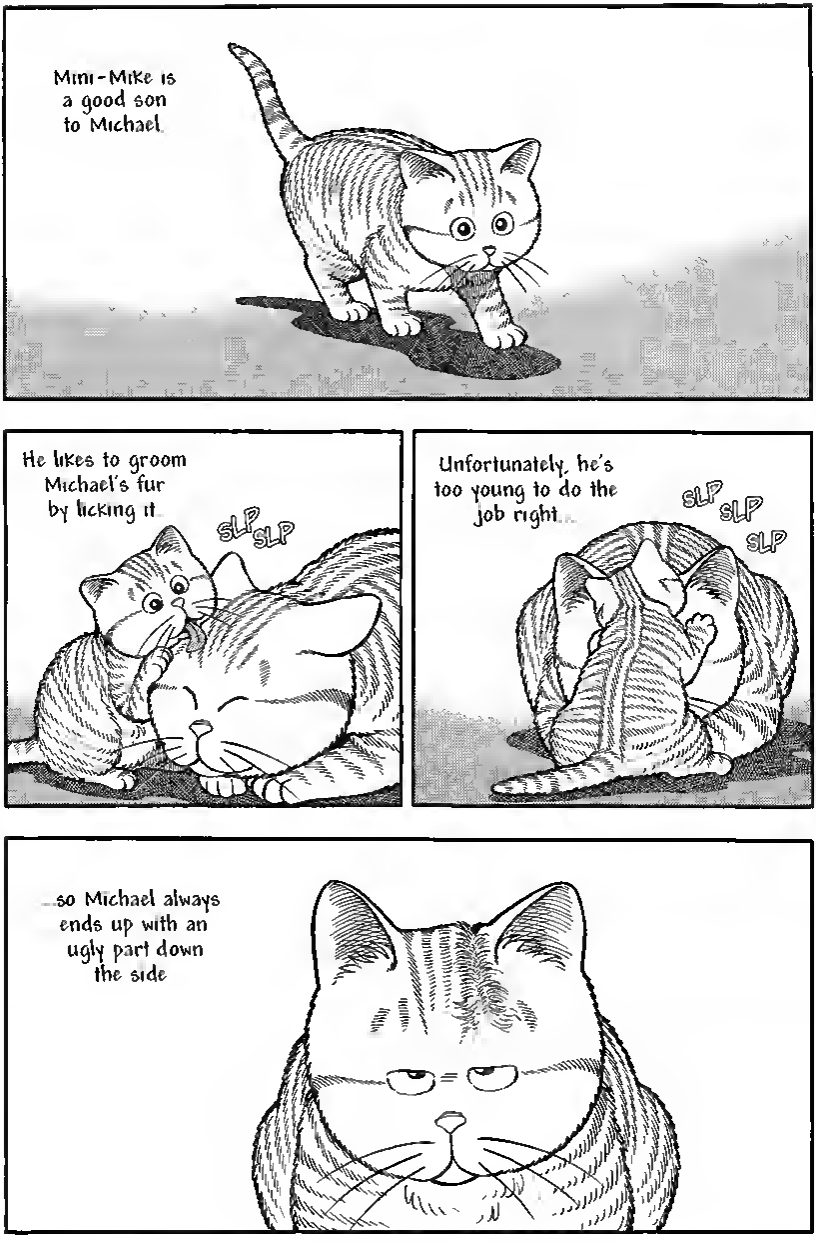


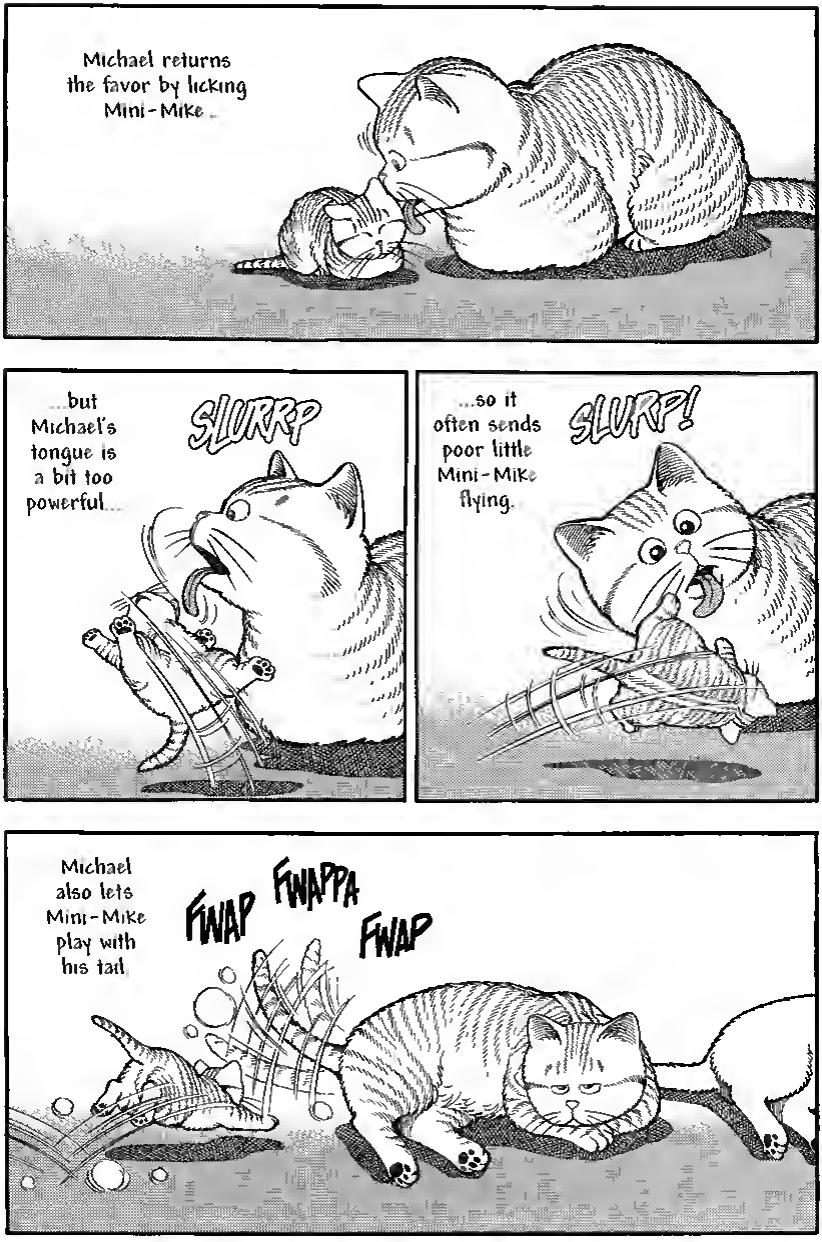


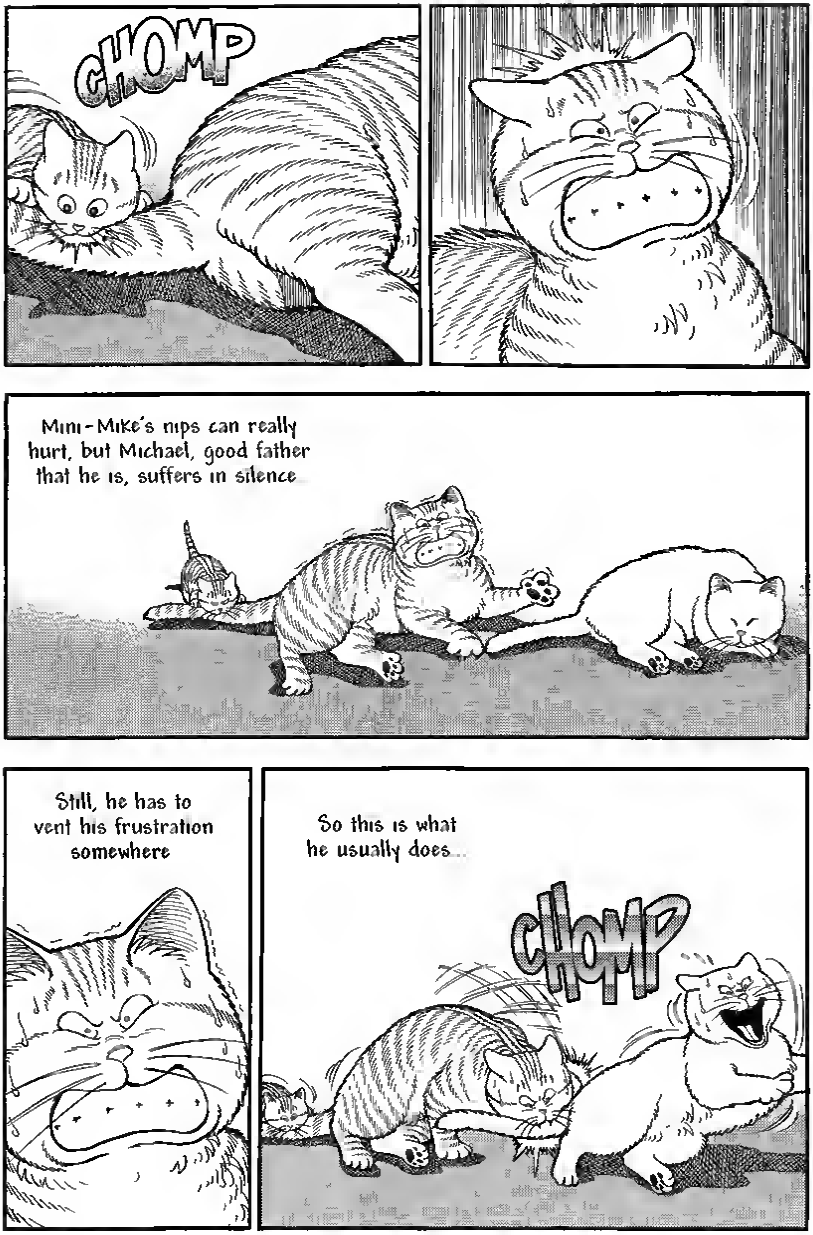

FACT: CATS HAVE A HABIT OF INEXPLICABLY GATHERING TOGETHER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

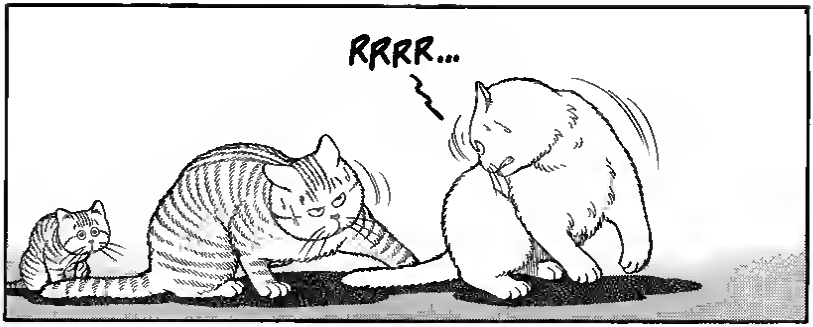
THE END

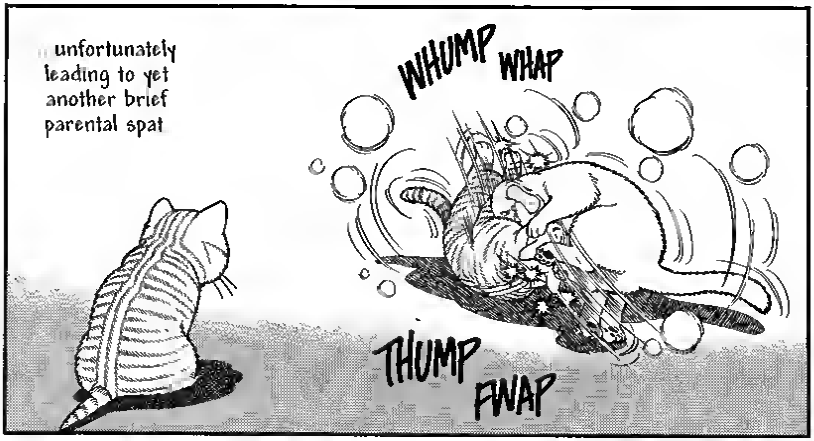

A DAY IN THE
LIFE OF THE
MICHAEL FAMILY

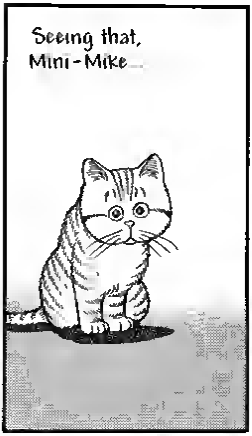

Mimi-Mike is a good son to Michael
He likes to groom Michael's fur by licking it
SLP SLP
Unfortunately, he's too young to do the job right...
SLP SLP SLP
...so Michael always ends up with an ugly part down the side

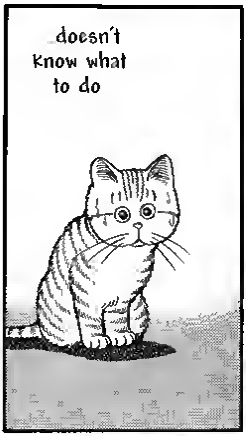

Michael returns the favor by licking Mini-Mike...
...but Michael's tongue is a bit too powerful...
SLURRP
...so it often sends poor little Mini-Mike flying.
SLURP!
Michael also lets Mini-Mike play with his tail.
FWAP
FWAPPA
FWAP


CHOMP
Mimi-Mike's nips can really hurt, but Michael, good father that he is, suffers in silence
Still, he has to vent his frustration somewhere
So this is what he usually does...
CHOMP

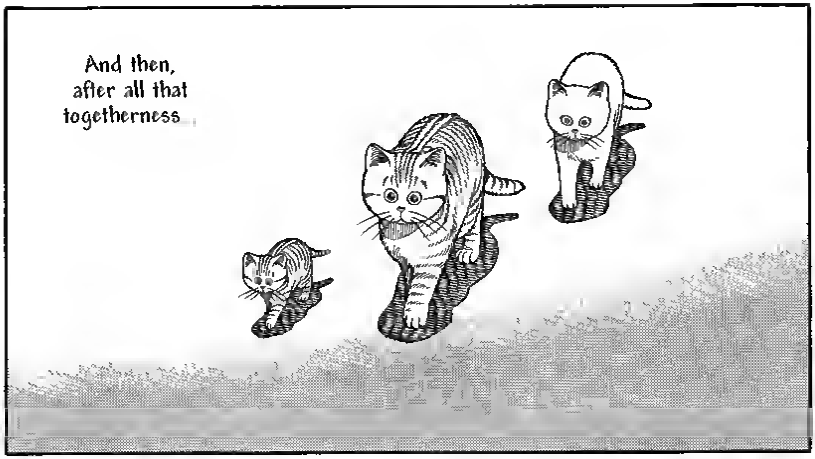

RRRR...

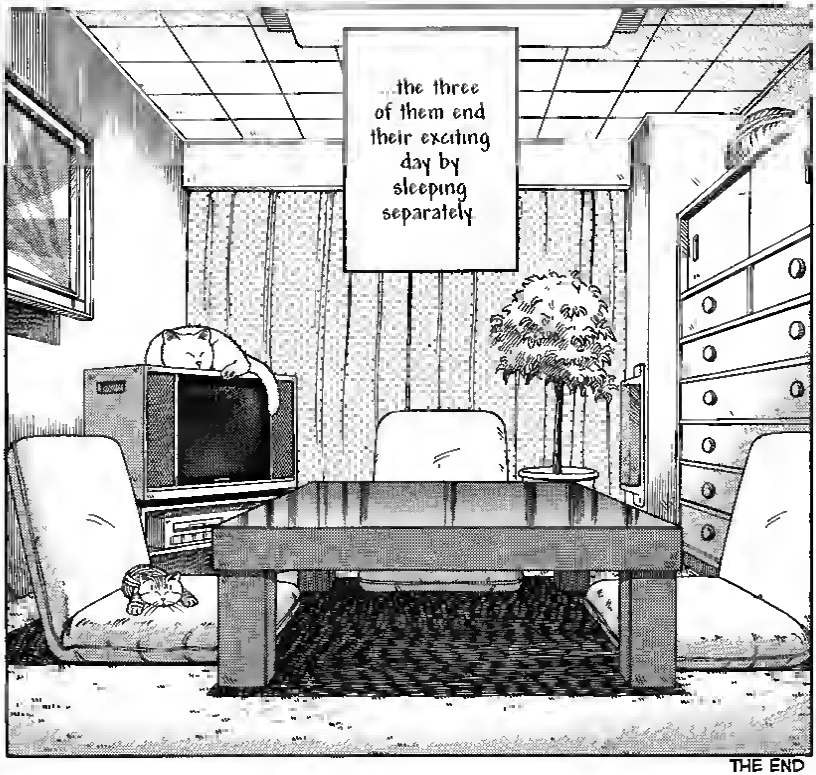

...unfortunately leading to yet another brief parental spat.
WHUMP
WHAP
THUMP
FWAP


Seeing that, Mini-Mike...


...doesn't know what to do

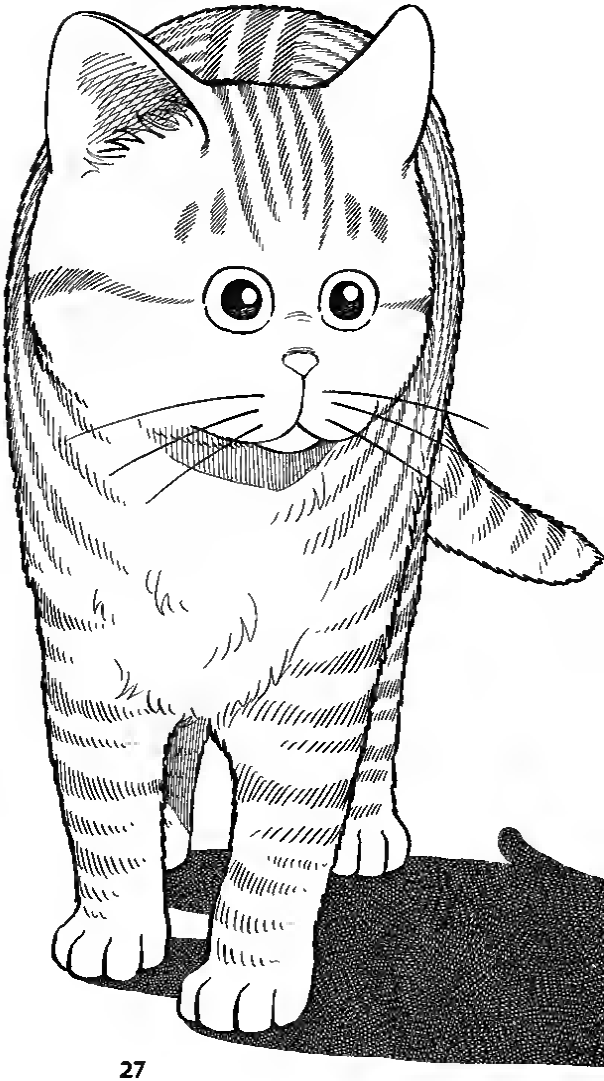
So he starts hopping sideways, aggressively.


And then, after all that togetherness...


...the three of them end their exciting day by sleeping separately

THE END

THE OLD MAN AND THE CAT



OKAY, FIERO... HERE WE GO!
HYA-AH!
FWISSSHHH
FETCH, FIERO!
FETCH!
FETCH!
....
....
GONK

STUPID CAT! HOW DO YOU THINK THIS MAKES ME FEEL?!
I'M DOING THIS FOR YOUR SAKE, YOU KNOW!
OKAY-- LET'S TRY IT AGAIN!
....
....
HEH HEH...
WHEN I WAS YOUNG...
...I TRIED TO RELATE TO CATS THE SAME WAY, TOO.
HEY! YOU THERE!
HAH...?

YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, SONNY.
YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW CATS THINK.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
HEH HEH... JUST CALL ME "HE WHO KNOWS CATS"...!
HUH...?
HEH HEH HEH... HE LOOKS JUST LIKE MY MICHAEL.
....?
....
....?
NYAOOW?
....?!
NYAOW NYAA NYAOWR?
PRRR PRRR PRRR
....!
Y-YOU SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF CATS?!
WELL... JUST A LITTLE. HEH HEH.

LONG AGO, I HAD A CAT NAMED *MICHAEL*.
IT TOOK ME MANY YEARS OF TRAINING WITH HIM TO GET TO WHERE I AM NOW.
IF YOU WANT A CAT TO DO YOUR BIDDING, MY SON, YOU MUST STOP BEING SO *PUSHY*!
YOU MUST ASK HIM IN THE RIGHT WAY, YOU SEE?
HERE, LET ME SHOW YOU.
O-OKAY... SURE. ??
....
....
NYAOWW!
FWIP
NYOW!
NYOW?
NYOW!!

....
....
....
....
....
....
GNK
HEY?!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, YA OLD GEEZER?!
SHADDUP, YOU!!
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO TRAIN A NO-GOOD CAT LIKE THIS ONE!
GIMME A BREAK!
YOU'RE JUST MAKING NOISES LIKE AN IDIOT! THE CAT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND A THING YOU'RE SAYING!!
HAH!! HOW WOULD YOU KNOW, YOU YOUNG PUNK?!
sighh DIDN'T QUITE GET HIM TRAINED WELL ENOUGH...
THE END

THE NIGHT BELONGS TO MICHAEL
I HAD A GREAT TIME TODAY, KEIKO.
I HOPE I DIDN'T WEAR YOU OUT!
OH NO, NOT AT ALL! I HAD SO MUCH FUN!
I'M AFRAID YOU SPENT TOO MUCH OF YOUR MONEY ON ME, THOUGH...

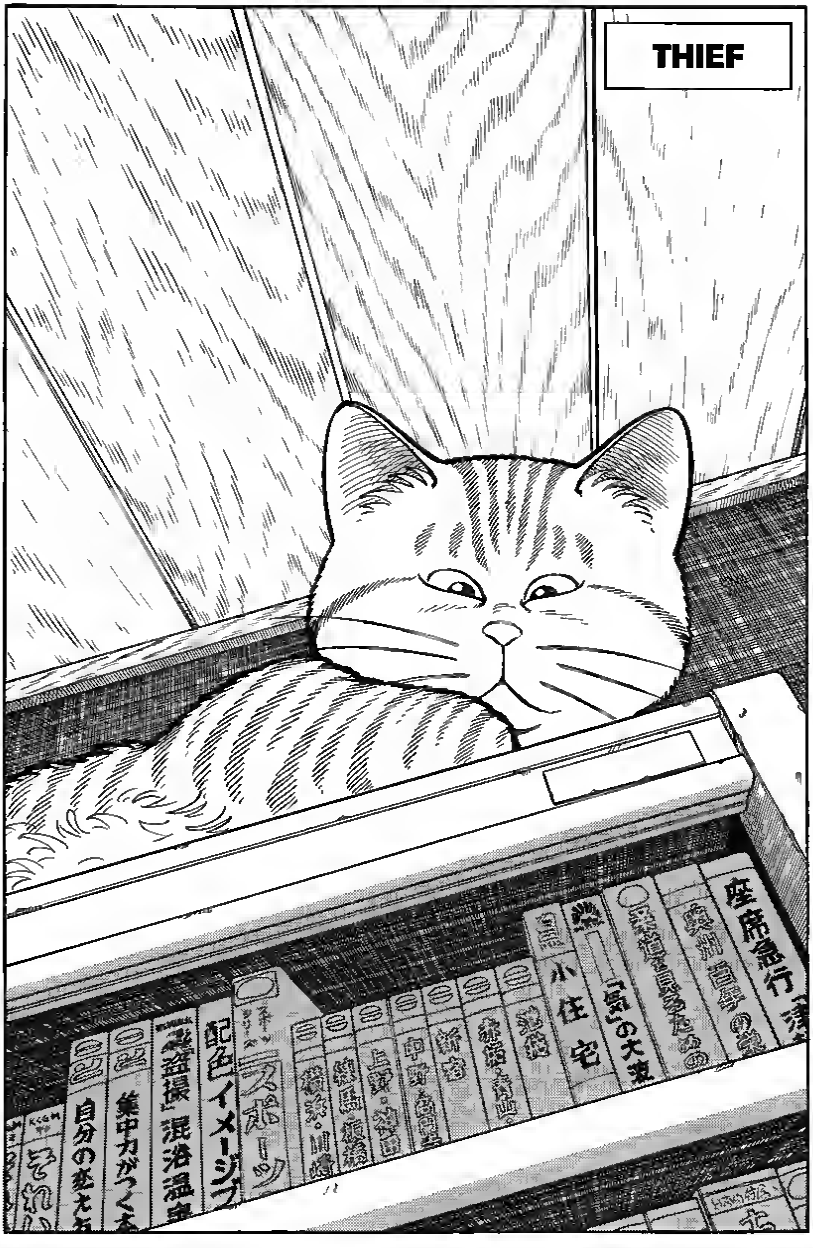
AWW, DON'T SWEAT IT!
IT WAS MY PLEASURE!
SAY... KEIKO...
....
....
....
....
OH!
LOOK, A KITTY! OOOH, IT'S SOOO CUUUTE!
ERR... UHM... GOSH, YOU'RE RIGHT, KEIKO! IT'S VERY CUTE!
tee hee!
I JUST LOVE CATS!
OH, YEAH?
HEH... WELL, UH-- SO DO I!
SO, ANYWAY... WE HAD A LOT OF FUN TODAY, HUH?
WE SURE DID!
UM... KEIKO?
YES, NORIO?

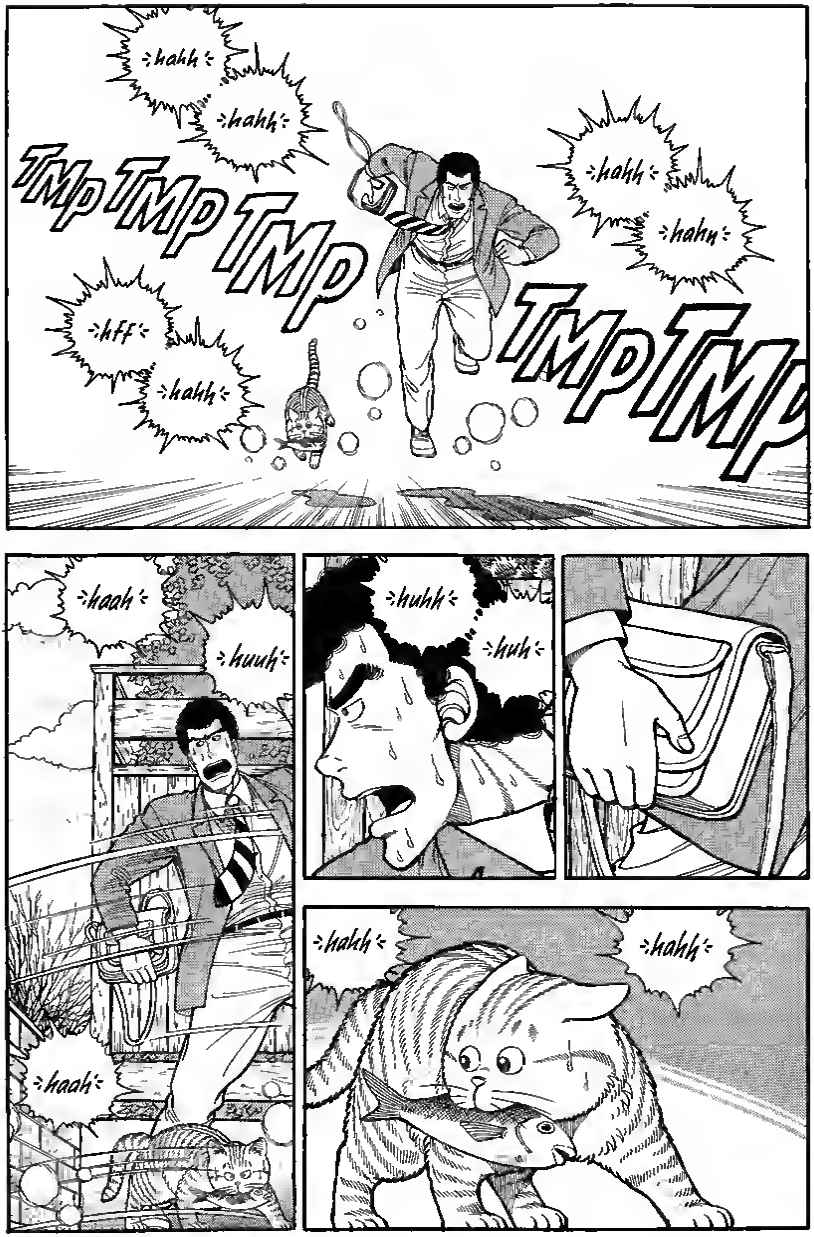
I WAS, UH...
WONDER... ING...
ER... ....
WOULD YOU... L-LIKE TO... um...
C-COME BACK TO MY PLACE?!
-:whew!:-
....
...?
KOOCHIE-KOOCHIE-KOO!
-:giggle!:-
PRRT PRRR
SORRY! WHEN I SEE A KITTY, I JUST CAN'T LEAVE IT ALONE!
N-NO KIDDING...
-:whewf:-
...WOW, THAT ROLLER COASTER TODAY WAS REALLY SOME-THIN', HUH?
IT SURE WAS!
Y'KNOW...
KEIKO...
WHAT, NORIO?

THERE'S...
SOME-THING... I...
...I'VE GOT SOMETHING I *REALLY* NEED TO TELL YOU...
THAT IS, I, UH...
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS RIGHT, BUT...

I LOVE YOU, KEIKO...!
MRROWL!
YEEK!
HEE HEE!
WSSH
SMACK!
ACK!
OH MY GOSH, I'M SO SORRY! I CAN'T BELIEVE I DID THAT! ARE YOU OKAY?
DON'T WORRY, N-NO HARM DONE! HA HA HA!
SO, WHAT WERE YOU SAYING, NORIO?
HUH?
OH, uh... NOTHING! FORGET IT!
ER... SAY... YOU MUST BE KINDA TIRED, RIGHT?
WE WERE ON THE GO ALL DAY.

SO, UH... WHY DON'T YOU JUST CRASH OUT AT MY PLACE INSTEAD OF, Y'KNOW... GOING ALL THE WAY BACK TO--
.....
.....
TEE HEE HEE!
LOOK AT THIS KITTY!
HE'S JUST SOOO FRIENDLY!
UH... GOSH... HE SURE IS!
KIK-
THE END


THIEF
座席急行
小住宅
「気」の大事
配色イメージブ
スポーツ
集中力がつく
自分の変え


:hahh:
:hahh:
TMP TMP TMP
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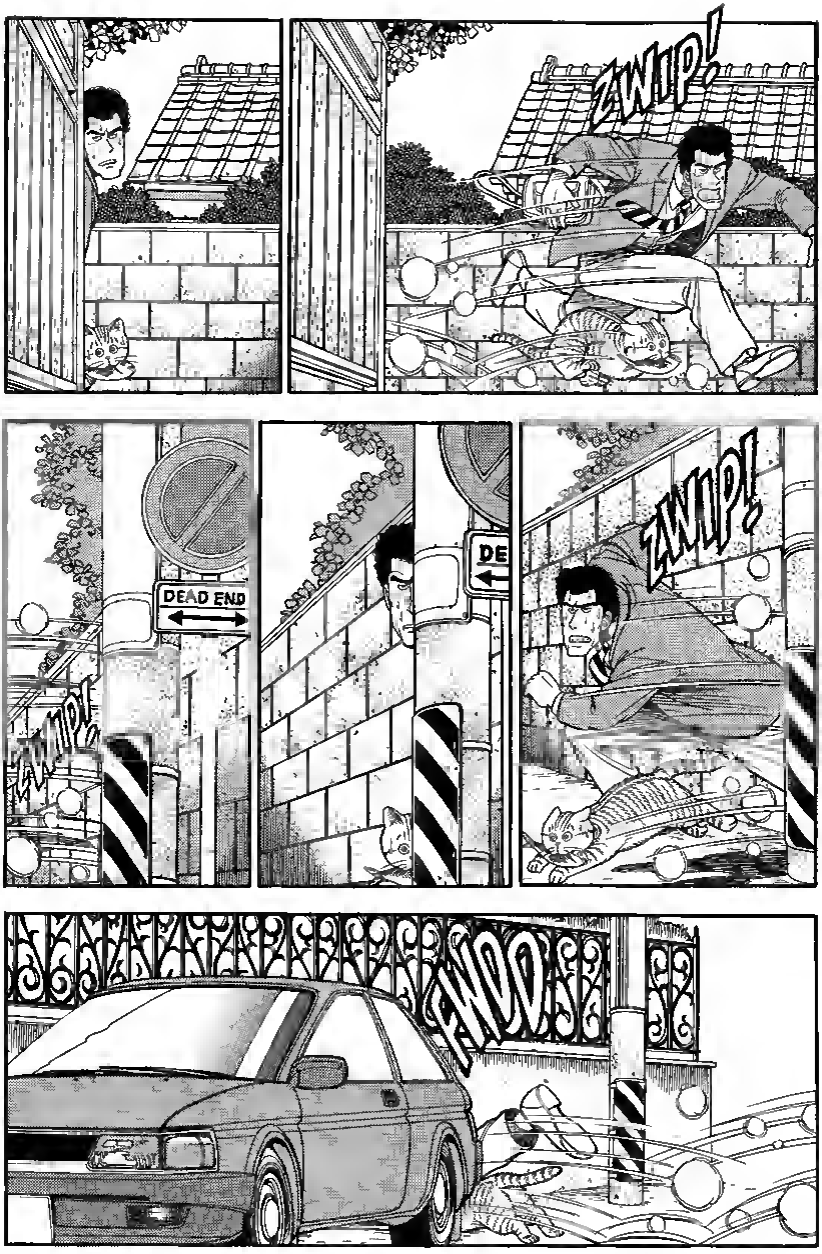
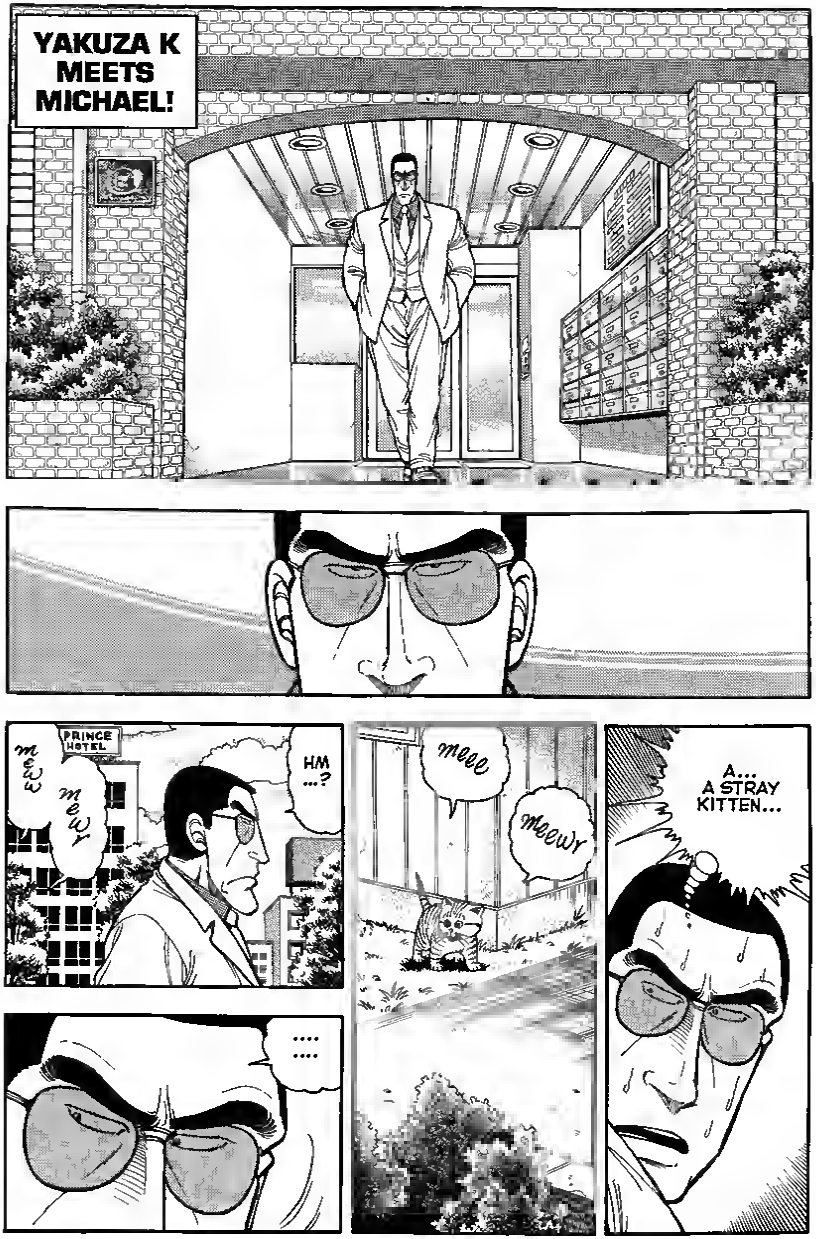
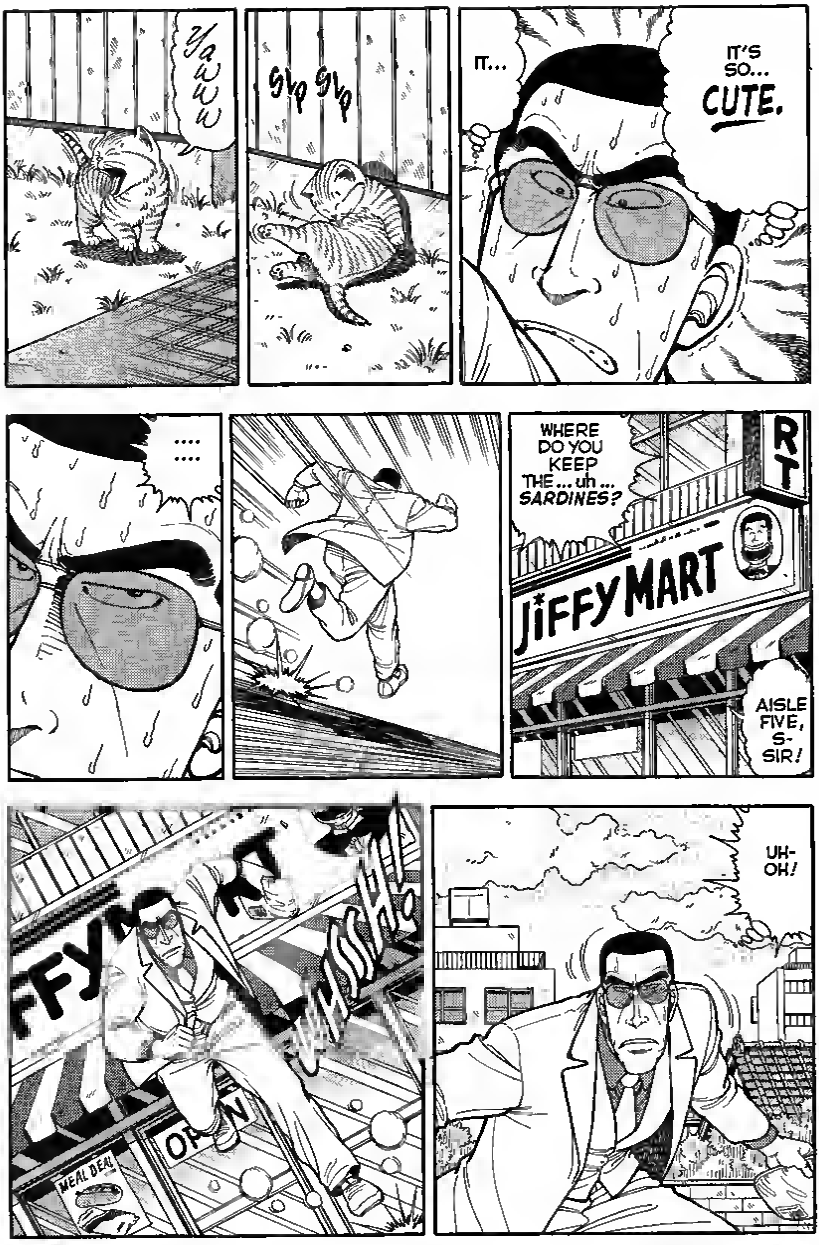

ZWIP!
DEAD END
ZWIP!
ZWIP!
ZWOO

STOP, THIEF!
HELP! HELP!
SOME-BODY CALL 911!!
GET BACK HERE, YOU LOUSY FLEA-BAG!
FISH
WHAT TH--?!
WHAT'S UP, MA'AM?!
HE GRABBED MY NEW CHANEL PURSE! AND I HAD MY WHOLE PAYCHECK IN IT--IN CASH!
AND THAT CAT GOT A WHOLE MACKEREL--FRESH!

:gasp!:
HEY!
THAT'S HIM!
THAT'S THE MAN, OFFICER!!
I'LL GET HIM!
AND THAT'S THE CAT!!
FREEZE, DIRT-BAG!
YOU CAN'T RUN FOR-EVER!
DAMN IT!!
NYAO!
AW, CRAP!

NNOWNR!
FWIP!
OOF!
WHOO
GOTCHA, SCUM!
YOU'RE BUSTED!
GURK!
CLEARLY, AS THIEVES, CATS HAVE CERTAIN ADVANTAGES OVER MEN.
PYYMHA
PYYY
MNCH SLRP
W-WAIT! OFFICER! WHAT ABOUT THAT CAT?
IT TOOK MY MACKEREL! AREN'T YOU GONNA ARREST IT, TOO?
GIMME A BREAK.
THE END


YAKUZA K MEETS MICHAEL!
PRINCE HOTEL
meow
meow
HM ...?
.....
.....
meee
meewr
A... A STRAY KITTEN...


Yawww
Slp Slp
IT...
IT'S SO... CUTE.
....
....
WHERE DO YOU KEEP THE... uh... SARDINES?
JiFFY MART
RT
AISLE FIVE, S-SIR!
FFY
MEAL DEAL
UH-OH!

OOH! ♥ WHAT A L'IL *CUTIE!*
KITTY KITTY KITTY!
mew mew
AWW, HE LOOKS *HUNGRY.* I'LL GIVE HIM SOME OF MY LUNCH!
....
....
WOW, DID YOU SEE HIM EAT? HE *WAS* HUNGRY!
POOR KITTY!
OOOH, *LISTEN!* HE'S *PURRING!*
WHATA SWEETIE! ♥
WHAT *PRECIOUS* LITTLE PAWS!
AND *DARLING* LITTLE EARS!
KITCHY KITCHY KOO!
....
....
'BYE, KITTY! BE SAFE!
BYE-BYE! ♥
....
....

....
....
FWISH
....
....
OH, MY! WHAT A SWEET LITTLE KITTEN!
!!
Mew?
....
....
BABY WANT A LITTLE SNACK...? HEEEERE YOU GO! ♥
Meee! Meee!
HA, HA! JUST LOOK AT YOU EAT!
GOOD, ISN'T IT?
TAKE CARE, LITTLE KITTEN!
♪ ♪
BYE-BYE!
♪
.....

....
....
WHAP!
YO!
YO, BOSS!
WHADDA YA DOIN' IN DIS NEIGHBAHOOD? SUMPIN' GOIN' DOWN?
:ulp!:
YOU KEEP ON ASKING QUES-TIONS...
...AND YOU'LL END UP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER IN A PACKAGE THIS BIG!
UH?! S-SORRY, BOSS!
SEE YOU LATER.
YES, BOSS!
SORRY, BOSS!

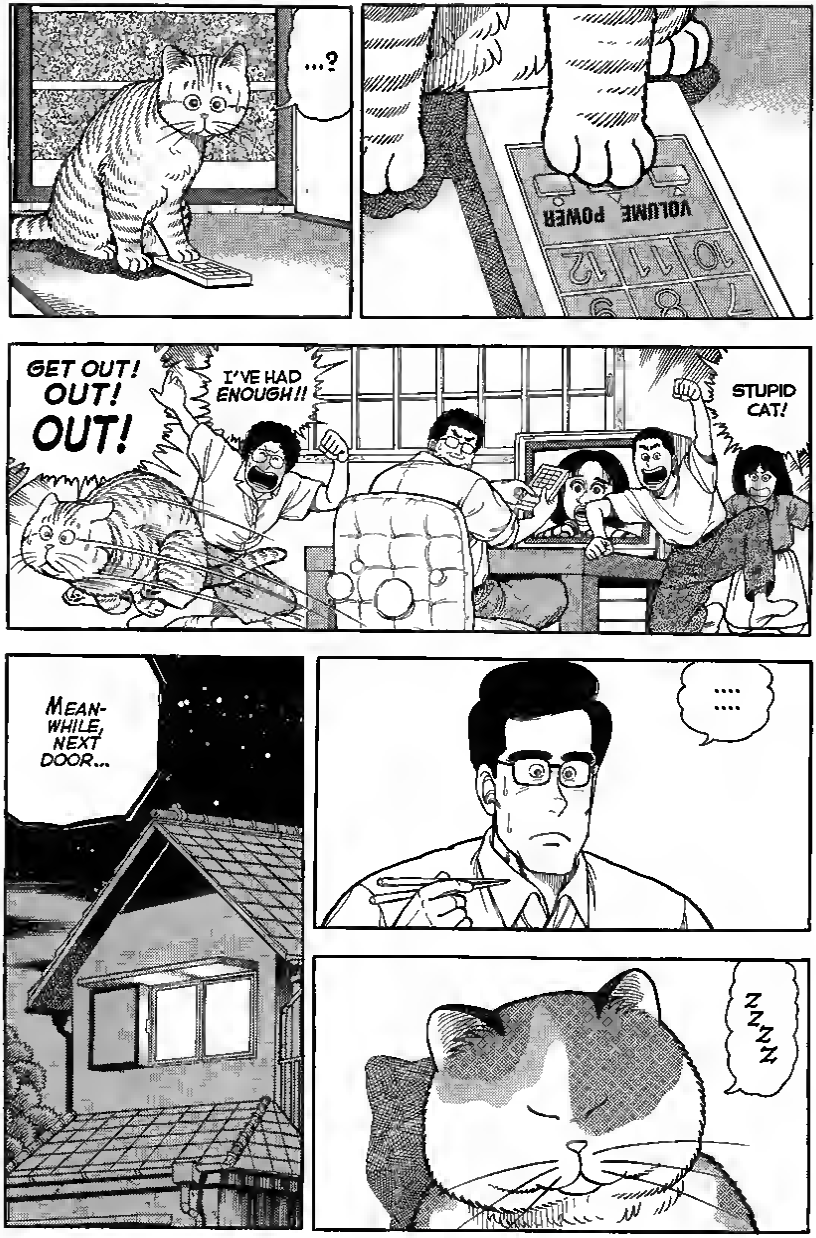
....
....
WHAT!
....
....
Mewf Mewf
much Mewf
....!
IT'S... SO...
...SO DAMN CUTE.
NYAW!?
FWIP!
mew?
AND SO IT WAS THAT MICHAEL AND YAKUZA K FIRST MET...
THE END

FAVORITE SPOT
CHIEF! WE FOUND THE VICTIM'S PURSE!
Hmm
GOOD GOD! LOOK AT THIS!
FWH
HEY!
MICHAEL! DON'T! WE CAN'T SEE!
MICHAEL! YOUR TAIL IS IN THE WAY AGAIN!!

....?
TAIL! YOUR TAIL!
MOVE IT!
DUMB CAT!
....?
WE CAN'T SEE, STUPID! MOVE IT!
COME ON! MOVE YOUR TAIL!
....
....
AUGH!! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!!
....?
OOH!! YOU DUMB CAT!

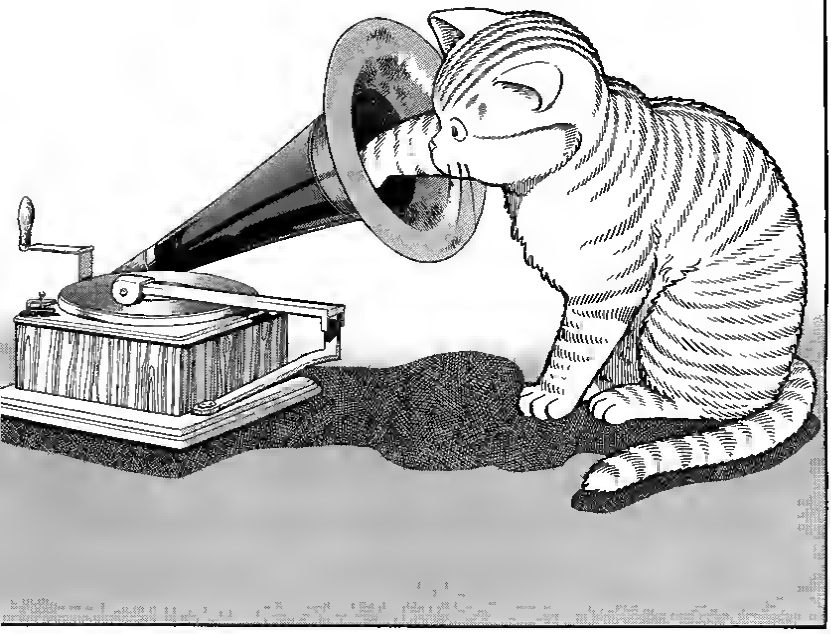
NOW KEEP IT THERE!
....
....
WE'VE GOT A TIP-OFF, MEN!
LET'S GO!
ARRGH!
AGAIN?!
GO! GET OFF--
YOWR?!
--AND STAY OFF!
NOW, MIKI!
HE CAN'T HELP IT-- THE TOP OF THE TV IS NICE AND WARM, THAT'S WHY MICHAEL MADE IT HIS FAVORITE SPOT!

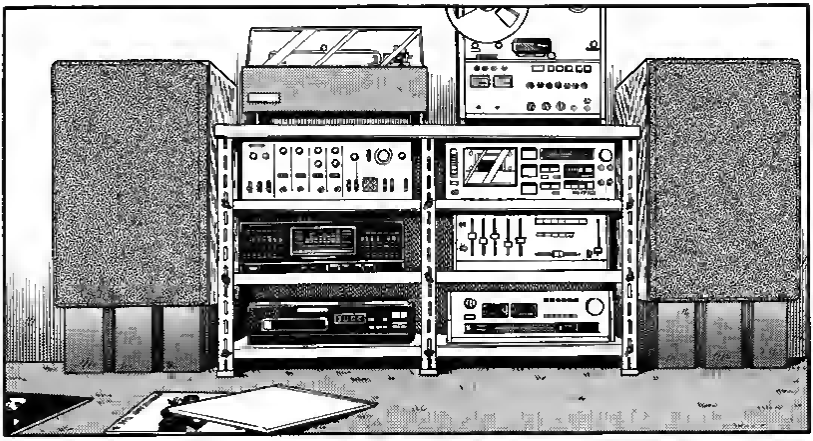
TRUE, BUT...
...NOW WE CAN WATCH OUR SHOW WITHOUT MICHAEL'S TAIL AS A GUEST STAR! HA! HA!
'SCUSE ME, MA'AM...
YES ?
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN RECENTLY?
WHY YES-- JUST NOW!!
HE WALKED BY ME AND TURNED..
..THE CORNER AT THE DRUGSTORE
WHAT THE HECK?!
MICHAEL?!


...?
VOLUME
POWER
GET OUT!
OUT!
OUT!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!!
STUPID CAT!
MEAN-WHILE, NEXT DOOR...
....
....
ZZZZZ

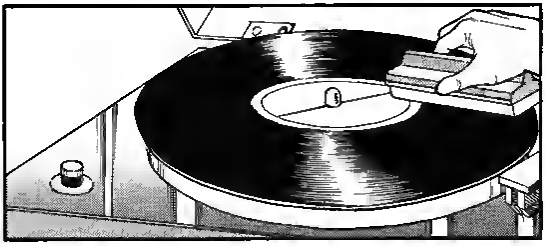
....
....
ER...WHY DON'T WE MOVE THE CAT? I MEAN...JUST WHILE WE EAT...
DADDY! NO! THAT'S CATZILLA'S FAVORITE SPOT!
....
-sigh-
YES, EVERY CAT HAS ITS FAVORITE SPOT...
THE END

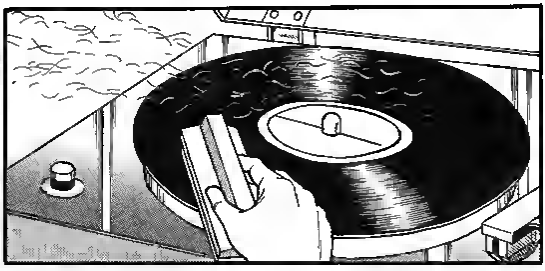
THE AUDIOPHILE

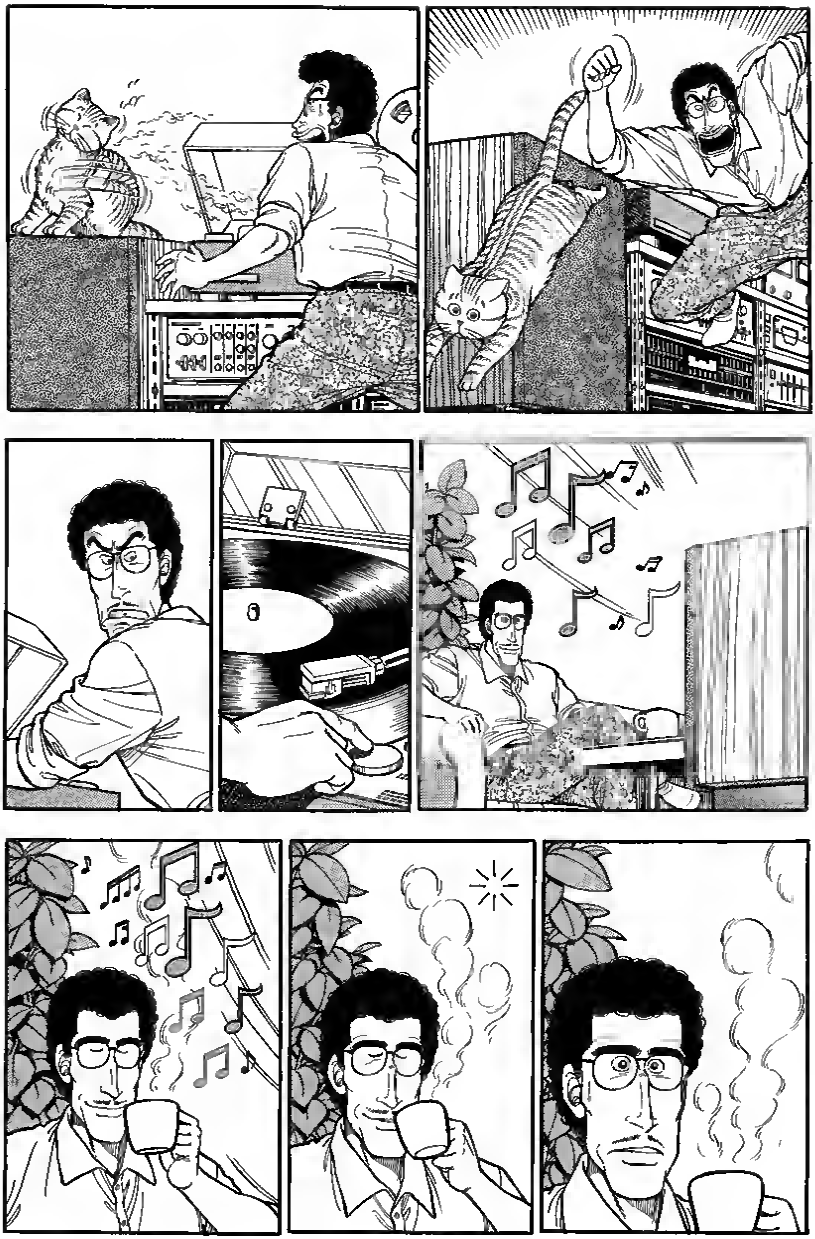


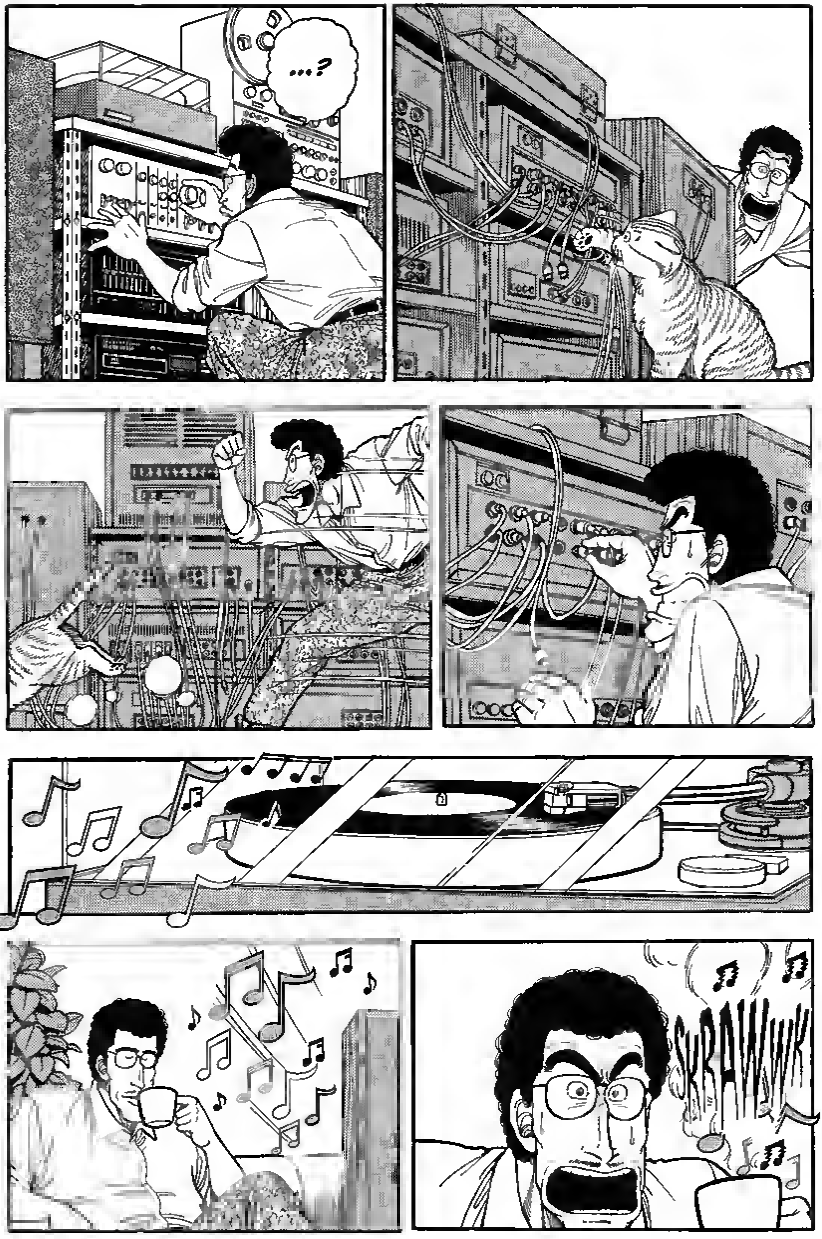


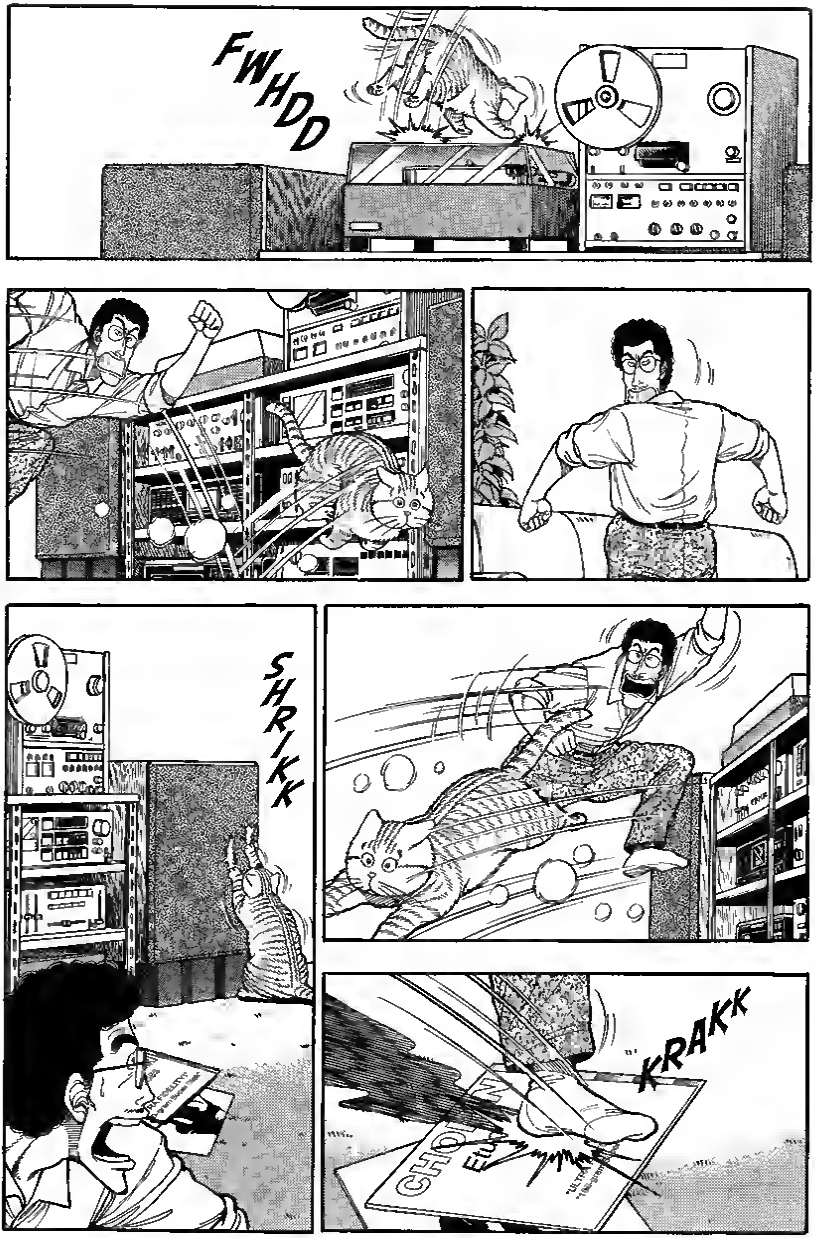
BACH
Goldberg Variations








...?
SKRAWWK

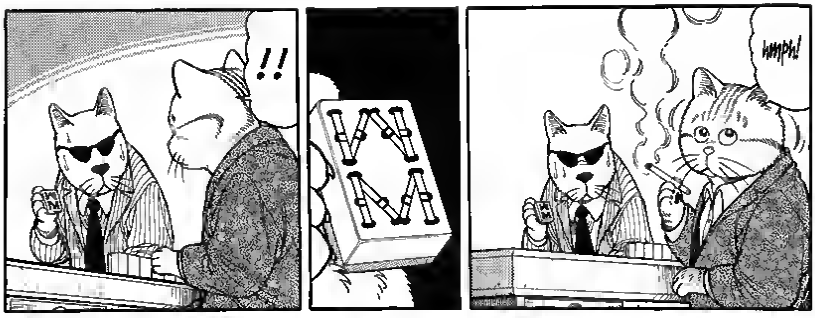

FWHDD
SHRIKK
KRAKK

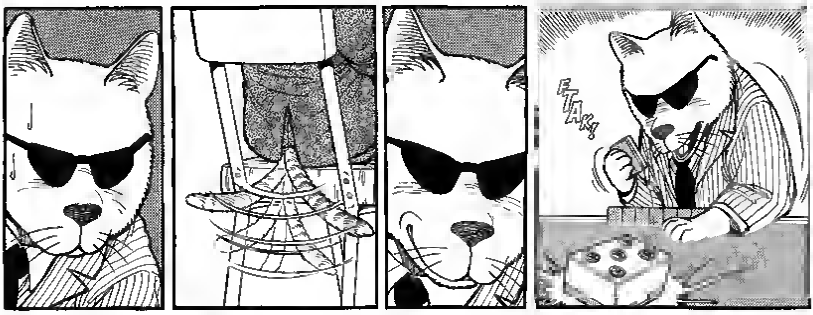
THE END

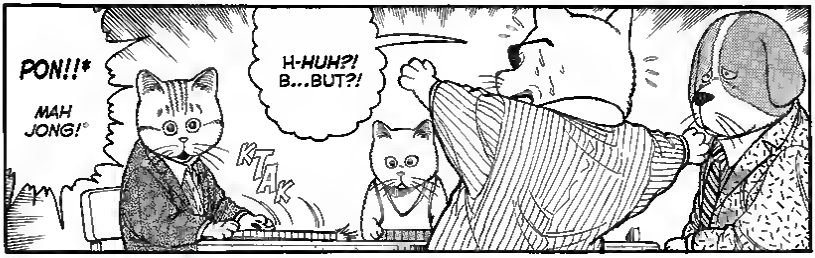
CANINES VERSUS FELINES:
MICHAEL'S MAH JONG LIFE
SHAKK
SHAKK
SHAKK
SHAKK
KCHIK
CHIK
TAK
TAK
TAK
NNGH!

FWAP
NYOWR!
FDD
HEY!! STOP BATTING AT DEM DICE!
YOU IS BEEN DOIN' DAT EVERY TIME!!
S... SORRY.
KCHK
CHK
OH, YEAH, BABY ...!
RHICH!!*
!!! RRG!
ETAK
*ONLY ONE MORE TILE NEEDED TO COMPLETE HIS HAND.
HMM... ....
QUIT STALLIN', CAT!
YOU GOTTA DISCARD!!
O... OKAY.
HRMM... ....

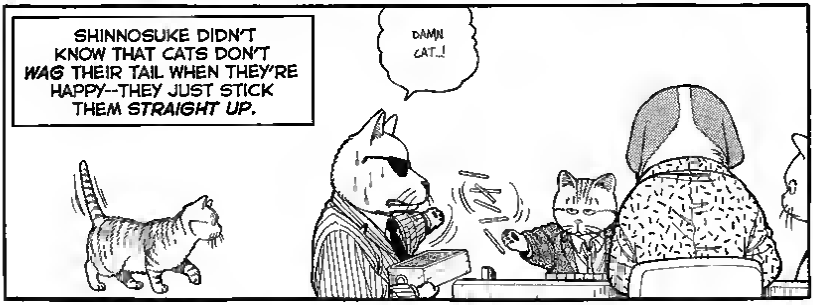
UH ...?
!!
HMM ...?
HEY!!
SHINNOSUKE THE DOG SAW THE 3-BALL TILE AND WAGGED HIS TAIL WITH JOY, REVEALING HE COULD COMPLETE HIS HAND WITH IT. SO MIKE DISCARDED THE 4-WON TILE, SPOILING SHINNOSUKE'S CHANCES FOR A WIN.
mutter... mumble... DAMN CAT
.....!
RHICH!!
!!
HRMM







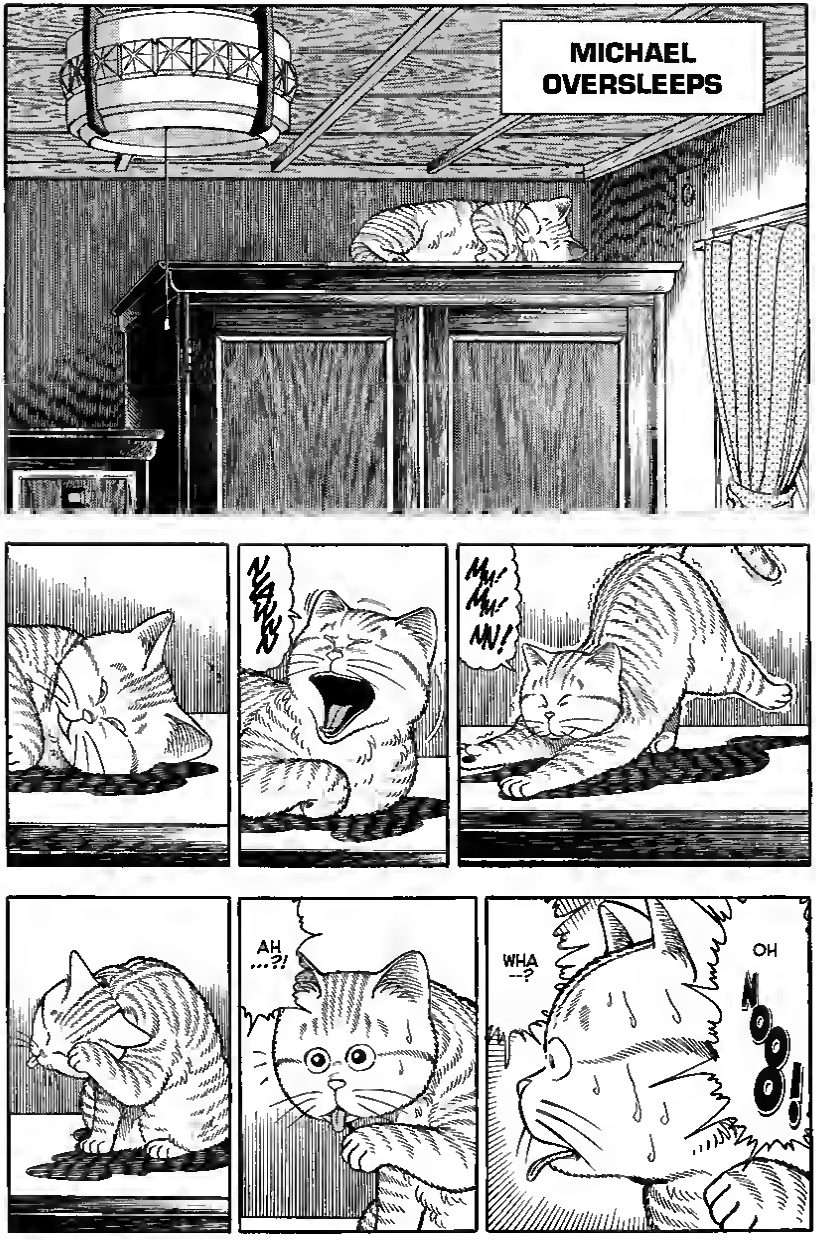
*. THREE OF A KIND °. COMPLETED WINNING HAND

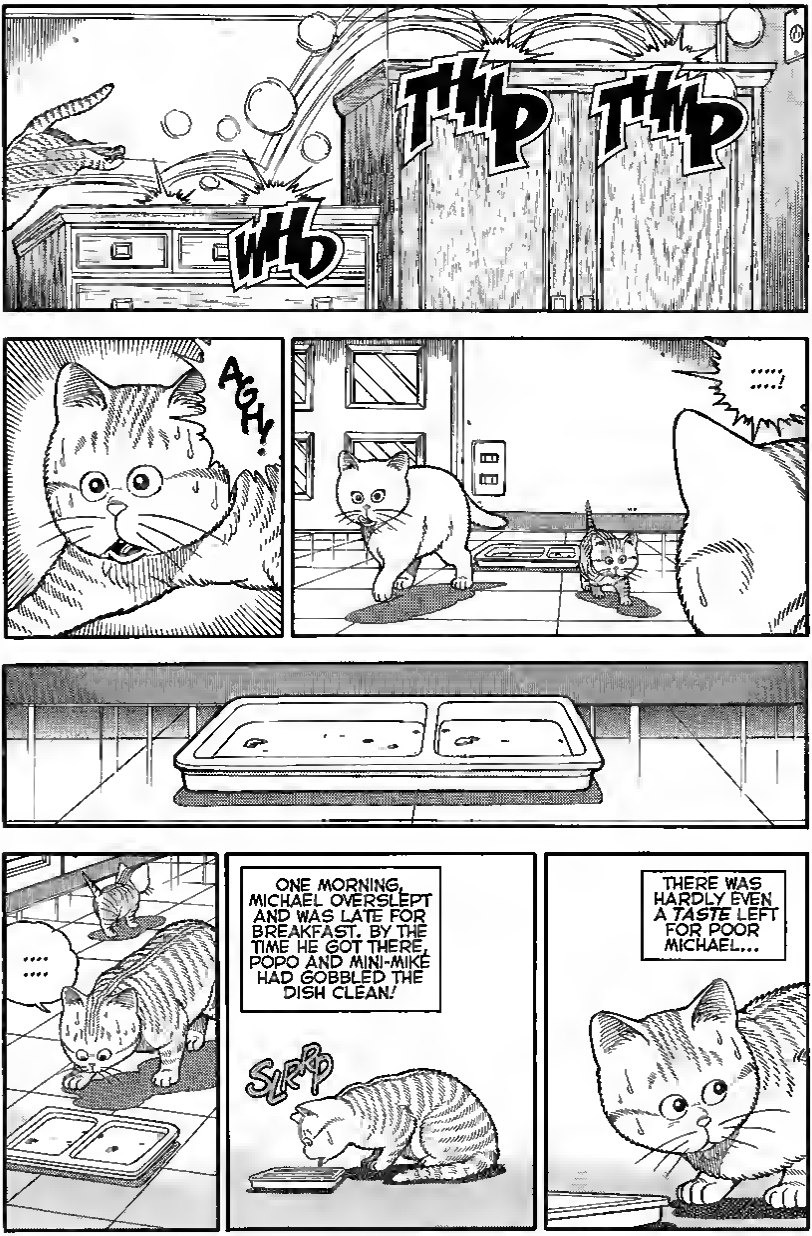


FTAK
HAH! PON AND MAH JONG!
ACK!
UH, OH... UH...
SIT! BEG!! STAY!!
ULP!!
FWHIP KCHICK
FTAK

SO POOR SHINNOSUKE DIDN'T GET HIS MAH JONG THIS ROUND, EITHER.
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
....
....
TAK
PON!!
MAH JONG!!
GRR ...
SIT!
BEG!!
STAY!!
YOU DISCARDED, I'M PLAYING EAST HAND, SO...YOU OWE ME ONE-FIFTY POINTS!
growf! ruff!
SHINNOSUKE DIDN'T KNOW THAT CATS DON'T BEG.
VICTORY: FELINES!

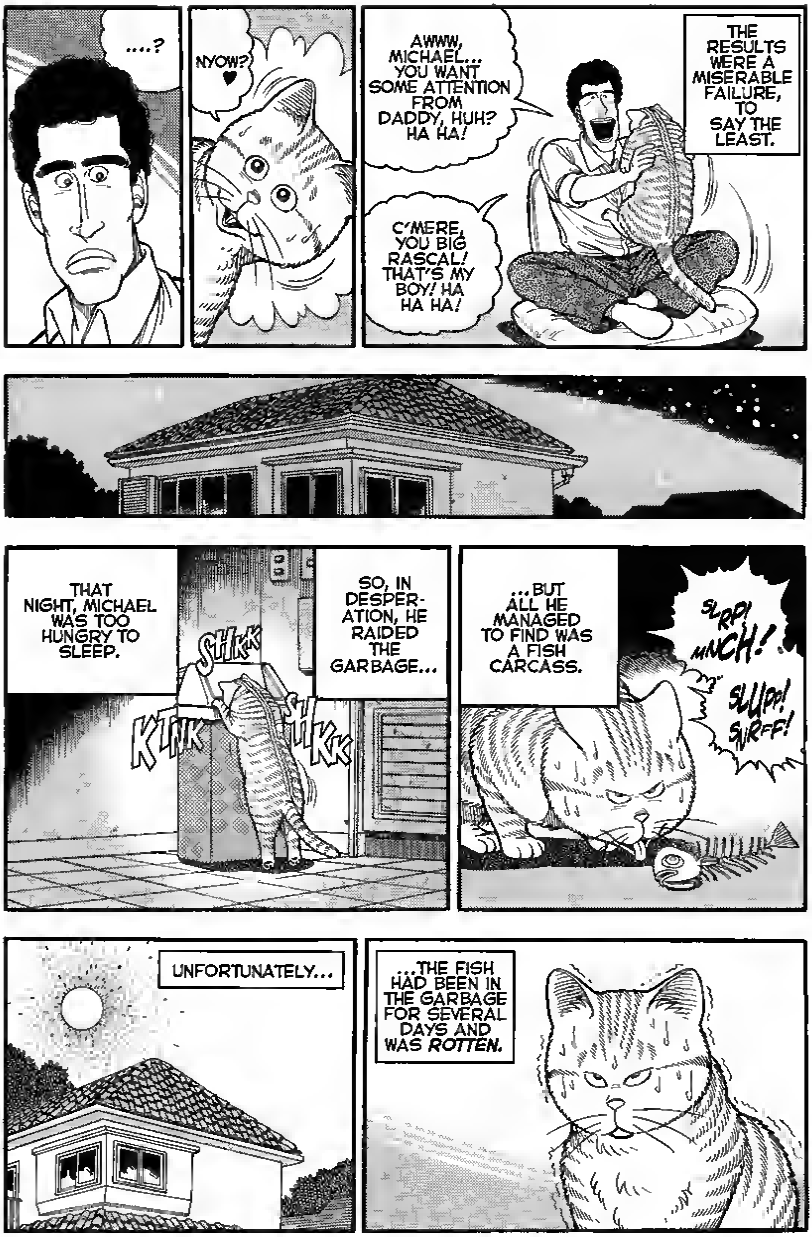
THE END


MICHAEL OVERSLEEPS
NGGGN
MM! MM! NN!
AH ...?!
WHA ...?
OH NOOO!


WHO
THMP
THMP
AGH!
.....!
.....
.....
ONE MORNING, MICHAEL OVERSLEPT AND WAS LATE FOR BREAKFAST. BY THE TIME HE GOT THERE, POPO AND MINI-MIKE HAD GOBBLED THE DISH CLEAN!
SLRRP
THERE WAS HARDLY EVEN A *TASTE* LEFT FOR POOR MICHAEL...

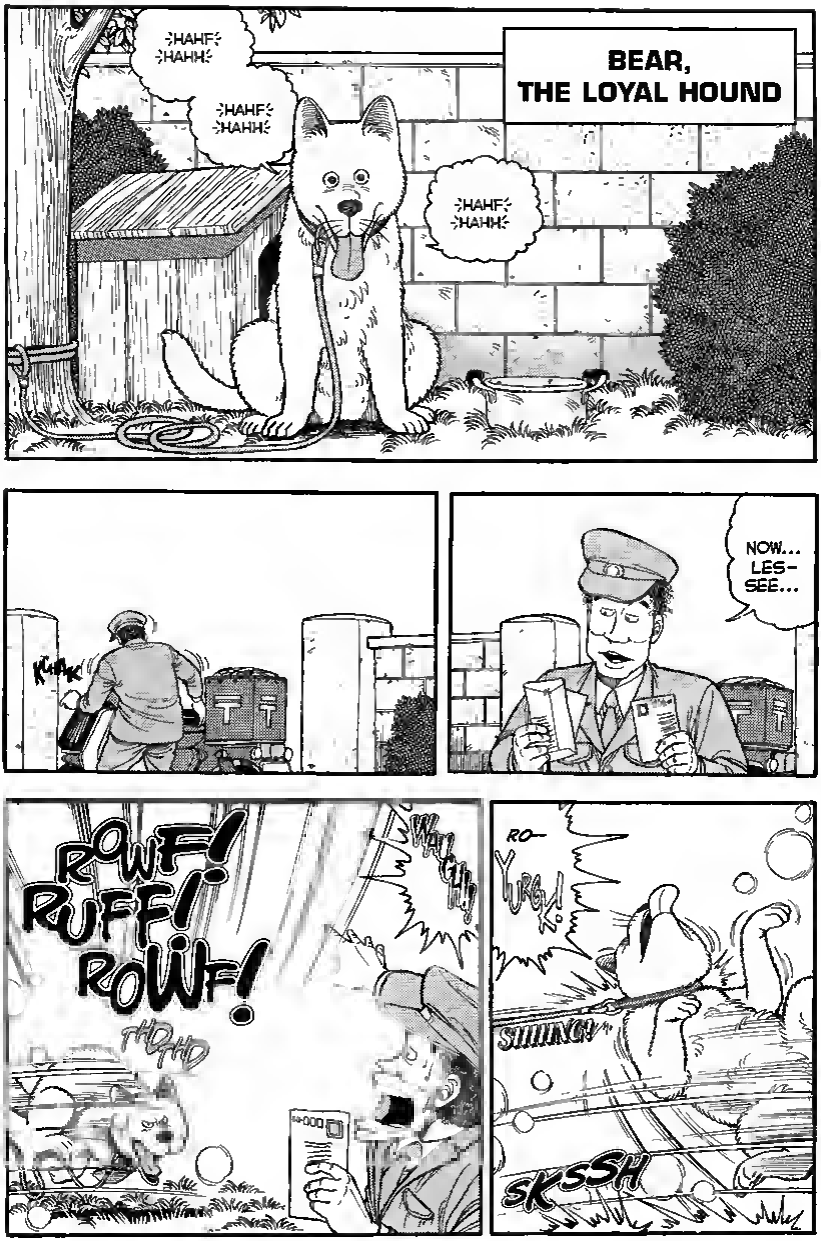
HE DID HIS BEST BEGGING TO GET MORE, BUT...
WHAT? YOU CAN'T BE HUNGRY!
I JUST FED YOU GUYS, YOU SILLY CAT!
PRRR!
MRRR!
SADLY, SHE WAS IMMUNE TO HIS CHARMS.
SO MICHAEL DECIDED TO SAVE HIS ENERGY AND WAIT UNTIL DINNER TIME.
MYOW! MOW!
MMMM
.....
.....
DIN-NER TIME
MICHAELLLL!
♪ POP OOOH! MINI-MIIIKE!
♪ COME AND GET IT! ♪
MREEE
POWWW!
SPOING!

GRMFF! GRFF! NAFF!
SLRFFK! GRFF! GRFF!
MUNCH
SCARF
GULP
MUNCH
URK!
YURRG
KHWGK!
R'LLFF!
UNFORTUNATELY, MICHAEL ATE SO FAST HE IMMEDIATELY BARFED IT ALL BACK UP.
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
AND SO, PRETTY SOON POOR MICHAEL WAS STARVING AGAIN!
....?
....?
HUH ....?
MYOWRR!
PRRRR!
THIS TIME, HE LOOKED TO THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE FOR HELP.


....?
NYOW?
AWWW, MICHAEL... YOU WANT SOME ATTENTION FROM DADDY, HUH? HA HA!
C'MERE, YOU BIG RASCAL! THAT'S MY BOY! HA HA HA!
THE RESULTS WERE A MISERABLE FAILURE, TO SAY THE LEAST.
THAT NIGHT, MICHAEL WAS TOO HUNGRY TO SLEEP.
SHKK
KLNK
SHKK
SO, IN DESPER-ATION, HE RAIDED THE GARBAGE...
...BUT ALL HE MANAGED TO FIND WAS A FISH CARCASS.
SLRP! MNCH!
SLUPP! SNRFF!
UNFORTUNATELY...
...THE FISH HAD BEEN IN THE GARBAGE FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND WAS *ROTTEN.*

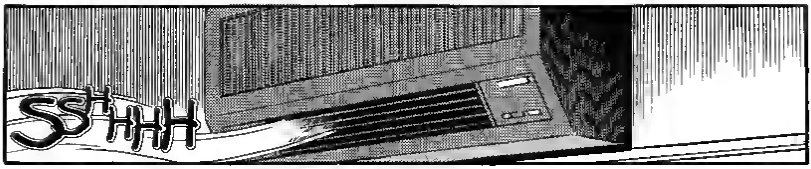
OH, NO!!
MICHAEL?! WHAT'S WRONG?!
W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
HE HAS D-DIARRHEA!! WHAT DO WE DO?
DON'T PANIC! I REMEMBER THAT THE THE VET SAID CATS OFTEN GET THE RUNS LIKE THAT, AND THE BEST THING TO DO IS JUST NOT FEED THEM FOR A DAY OR SO, BUT GIVE THEM PLENTY OF WATER!
R-REALLY? ARE YOU SURE? WELL, OKAY... I'LL JUST PUT MICHAEL IN ANOTHER ROOM WHEN I FEED POPO AND MINI-MIKE, AND THEN HE CAN GET SOME REST, TOO.
....!!
AND SO POOR MICHAEL GOES ANOTHER DAY WITHOUT FOOD.
POPO! MINI-MIKE! SUPPER TIME!
MEOW!
MEOW!
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

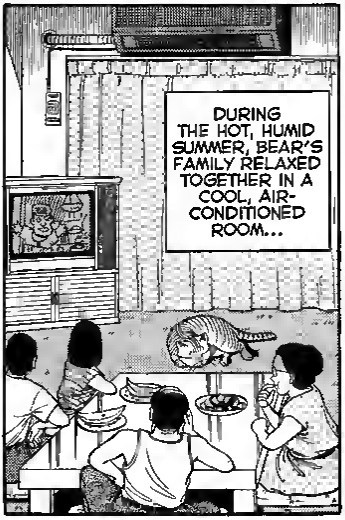
THE END

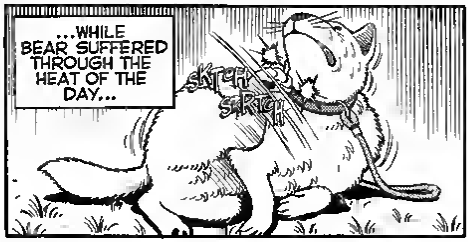

:HAHF: :HAHH:
:HAHF: :HAHH:
:HAHF: :HAHH:
BEAR, THE LOYAL HOUND
KLUNK
NOW... LES-SEE...
ROWF! RUFF! ROWF!
THUMP
SWALLOW!
RO-
YURG!
SHRINK!
SKSSH

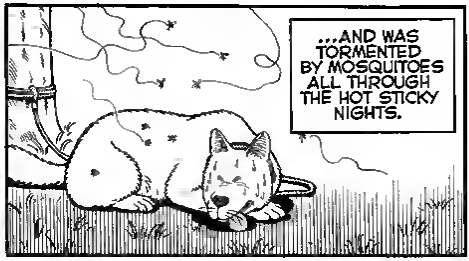
MAD DOG! HELP! HELP!
ROWF! ROWF! RUFF! ROWF!
BEAR!
SHAK
ROWF! RUFF!
NOT AGAIN! DAMMIT, BEAR!
SHAD-DUP, YA DUMB MUTT!
WHK WHK
YIPE YIP YIPE!
AH'M SORRY, PAL, BUT THAT DURN DOG...
TH-- THAT'S OKAY... HE JUST KINDA... WHEWW
BEAR PROTECTED HIS FAMILY BY BARKING AT STRANGERS, LIKE A GOOD GUARD DOG.
GRRRR
AND HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE ALWAYS GOT IN TROUBLE FOR IT.
HRH! HRH!
HRH! HRH!
HEY, BEAR!
TIME FER CHOW, BOY!

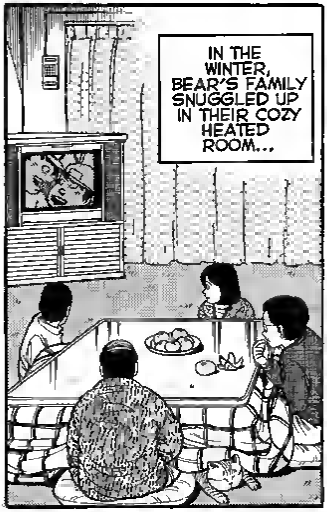
ROWF! ROWF! ROWF!
RO-
:RRK!:
SIIIING!
SKSSH
RUFF! ROWF! RUFF! WUFF!
WAIT, WAIT...
SIT! SIT!
BEAR, SIT!
:HAH: :HFF: :HAH:
NOW SHAKE!
OTHER PAW!
BEAR, OFF!
!!
.....!
OK! EAT!
GFF! MRFF!
:SMACK!
:CHOMP!
BEAR ALWAYS HAD TO WORK FOR HIS FOOD, AND IT WAS ONLY TABLE SCRAPS.

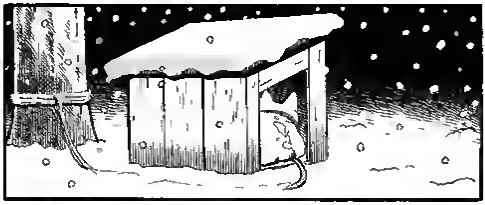

SSHHH

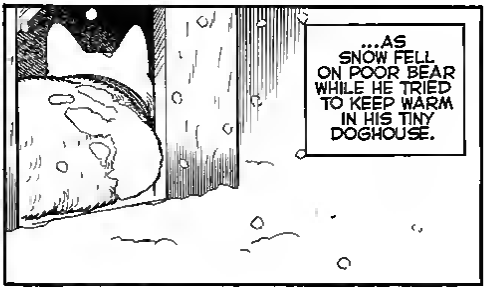

DURING THE HOT, HUMID SUMMER, BEAR'S FAMILY RELAXED TOGETHER IN A COOL, AIR-CONDITIONED ROOM...


...WHILE BEAR SUFFERED THROUGH THE HEAT OF THE DAY...
SKRCH SKRCH

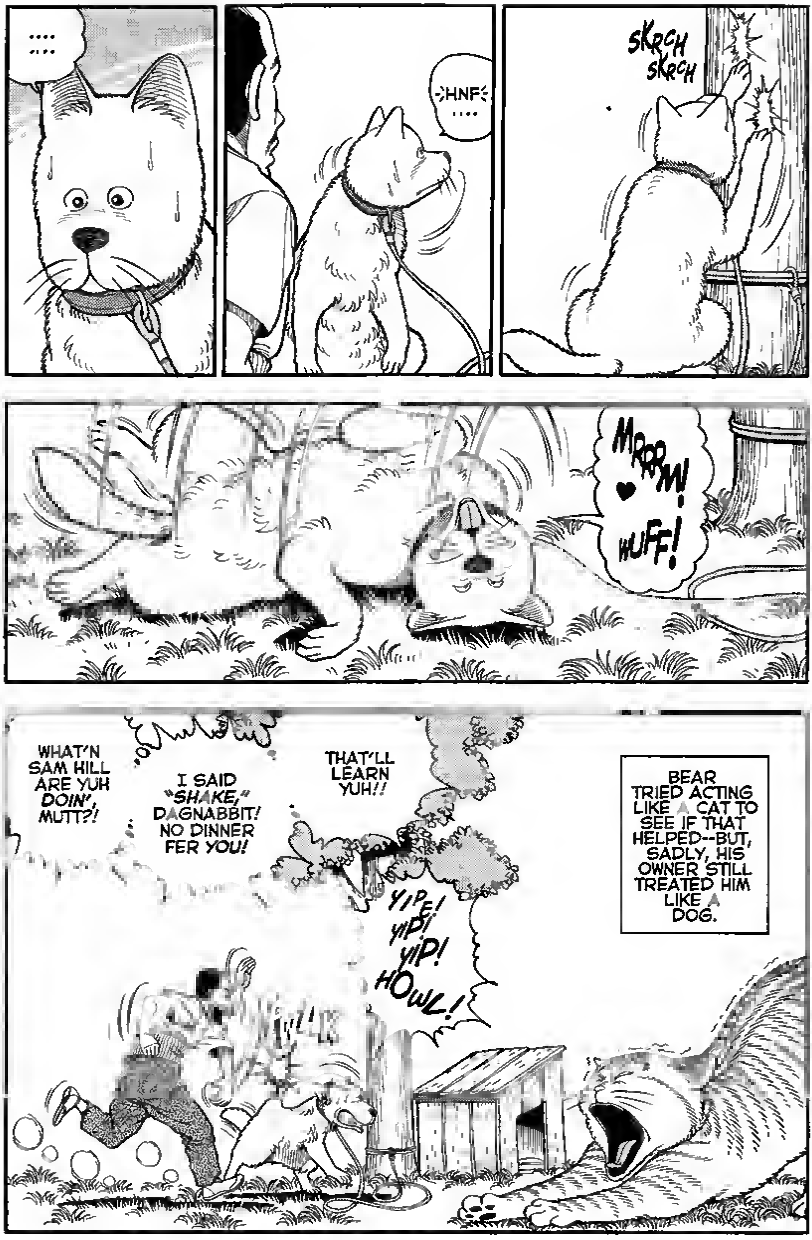

...AND WAS TORMENTED BY MOSQUITOES ALL THROUGH THE HOT STICKY NIGHTS.


IN THE WINTER, BEAR'S FAMILY SNUGGLED UP IN THEIR COZY HEATED ROOM...




...AS SNOW FELL ON POOR BEAR WHILE HE TRIED TO KEEP WARM IN HIS TINY DOGHOUSE.

SKRTCH SKRTCH
OOH!
A KITTY!
HE'S SO CUUUTE!
HI, LITTLE KITTY— CAT!
....?
....
....
BEARRR!
HERE'S YER GRUB!
OKAY... SHAKE!

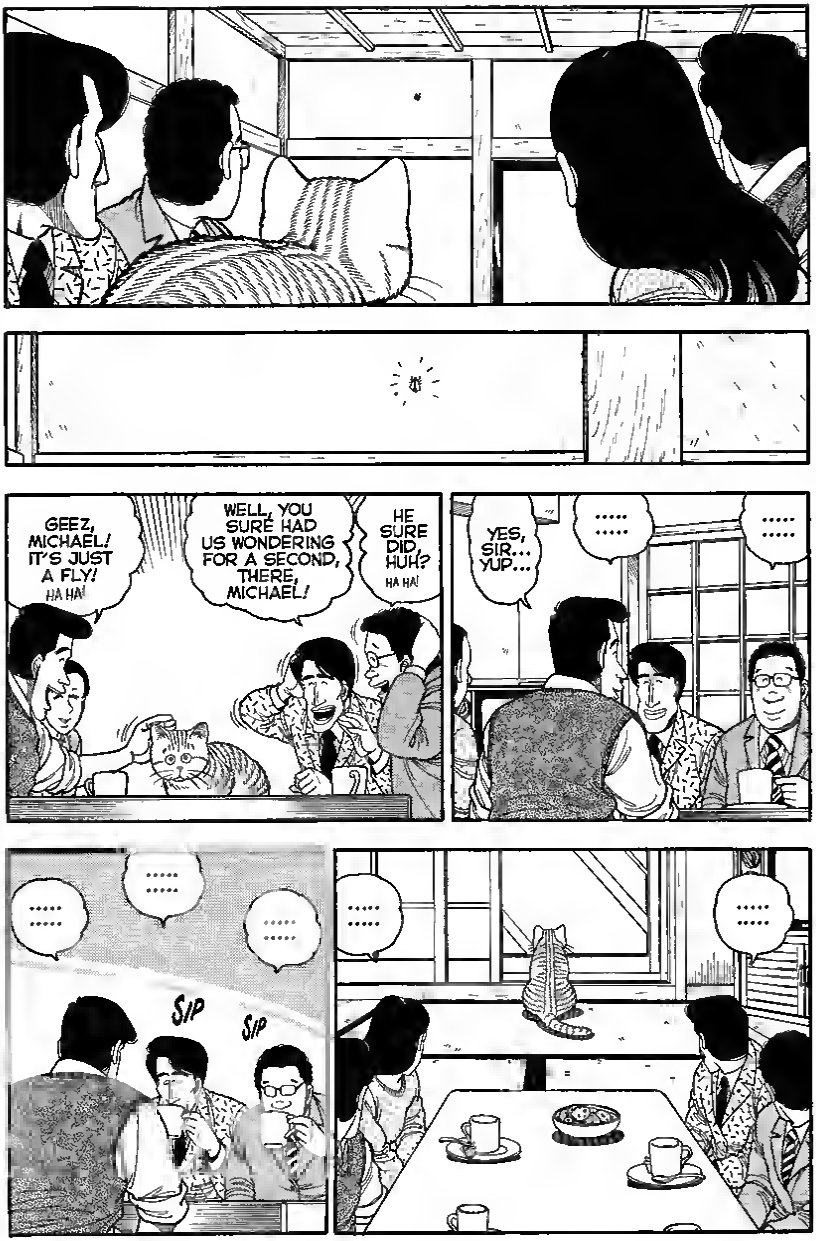


THE BITTER END

THE GUESTS WHO WOULDN'T LEAVE
TIKooo
TIKooo
TIKooo
WELL ...!
ISN'T THE WEATHER GREAT TODAY?
IT SURE IS!
HA HA HA!
YES, GREAT WEATHER! HA HA!
YES... HA... HA.
....
....
....
....

TIK000
TIK000
TIK000
ONE DAY, MICHAEL'S OWNERS HAD TWO VISITORS WHO COULDN'T CARRY A CONVERSATION TO SAVE THEIR LIVES.
MEOW...?
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
MROW!
NO! BAD CAT!
GET OFF!
WELL, NOW... HA HA!
HE SEEMS LIKE QUITE A CAT! WHAT'S HIS NAME?
MICHAEL, AND HE'S A REAL RASCAL!
SEE? HE WAS AFTER YOUR COFFEE CREAMER.

OH, MICHAEL, YOU'RE HOPELESS. HERE-- TAKE IT.
SLURP
PURRR
HA HA!
WHAT A CAT!
....
SLAP SLAP
....
SLAP SLAP SLAP
SLURP
HM ...?!
HM ...?
HM ...?
HM ...?
....! ....! ....!


GEEZ, MICHAEL! IT'S JUST A FLY! HA HA!
WELL, YOU SURE HAD US WONDERING FOR A SECOND, THERE, MICHAEL!
HE SURE DID, HUH? HA HA!
YES, SIR... YUP...
.....
.....
.....
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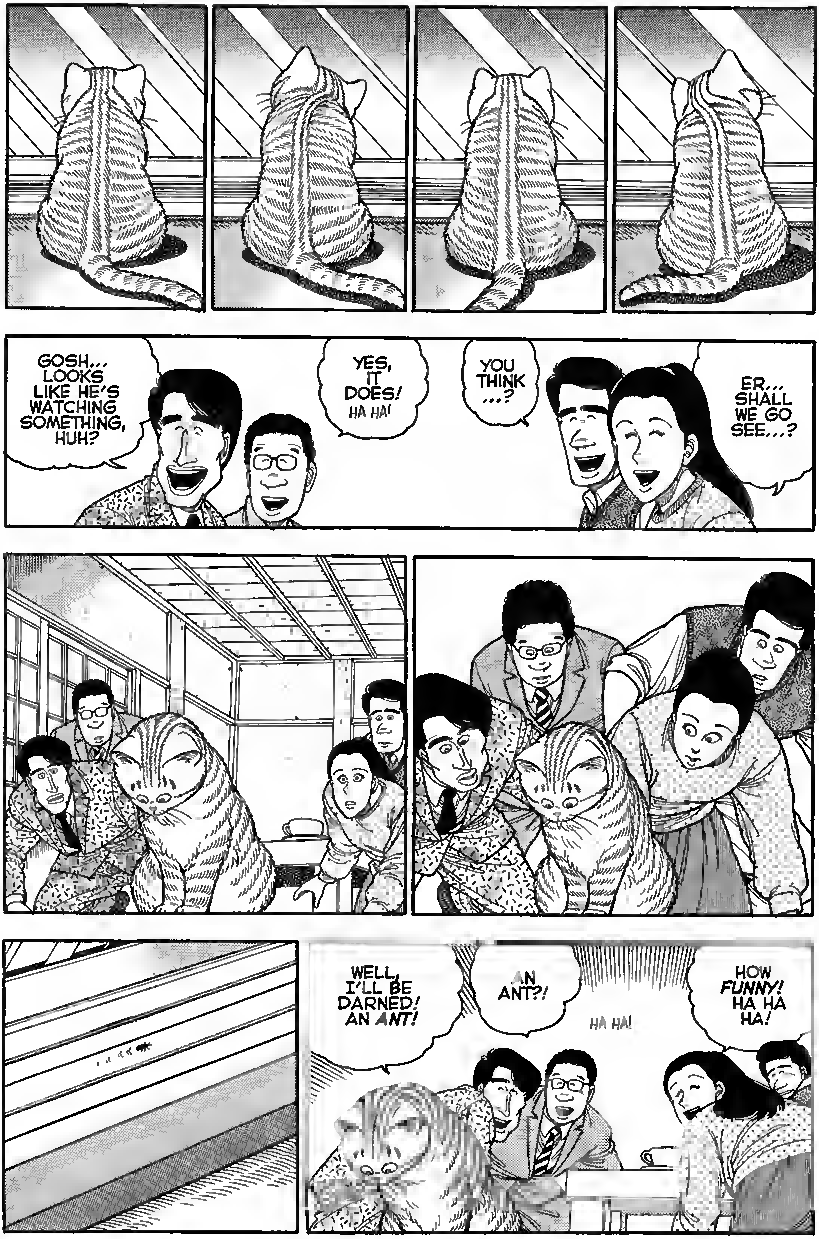
GOSH... LOOKS LIKE HE'S WATCHING SOMETHING, HUH?
YES, IT DOES! HA HA!
YOU THINK ...?
ER... SHALL WE GO SEE...?
WELL, I'LL BE DARNED! AN ANT!
AN ANT?!
HA HA!
HOW FUNNY! HA HA HA!

:YAWWN!:
....
....
....
....
GUESS HE WAS BORED, HUH? MAYBE? HA HA.
WHERE'D HE GO?
GEE, I DON'T KNOW... SHALL WE GO SEE?
WELL, LOOK AT THAT! HE EVEN KNOWS HOW TO USE A LITTER BOX!
WHAT A *CLEVER* CAT! HA HA!
WHEN YOU HAVE GUESTS LIKE THIS, A CAT IS AT LEAST *SOMETHING* OF A DISTRACTION FROM THE GHASTLY TEDIUM.

THE END

Hogan Kobayshi, Male

Hogan is the cat who became the model for Michael. Back when we got him, nobody wanted American short-hairs, and he'd been languishing in a pet shop for seven whole months. And that was just the beginning. Since moving in with us, he's put up with four moves, had his tail run over by a car, and come down with kidney stones. Maybe it's that hard life or something, but Hogan has some thing you don't often find in a cat: he's got true grit

One night, though, just one night, Hogan ran away from home

I don't know where he went that night, or what he did, heedless of our frantic search for him. But I have a feeling he just wanted to be alone.

So be it. Live long, Hogan! Please!

— Makoto Kobayashi

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